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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-87-234
Monday
7 December 1987

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-87-234 *7 December 1987*

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LD071421 [Editorial Report]

Gulf Conflict

Missile Attack on Kuwait—Iran fired a Silkworm at southern Kuwaiti territorial waters 7 December but the missile failed to hit its target and fell harmlessly in the sea, a Kuwaiti Defense Ministry source announced in a statement to KUNA. Tehran radio noted a *Reuter* report that a missile was fired at Kuwaiti waters, adding that "news sources" said it hit "a floating platform placed by Kuwait at U.S. disposal." Gulf shipping sources reported that the missile hit a barge 1 mile from an offshore oil terminal, the radio added.

The Iranian attack followed Tehran radio's warning the previous day that Iran cannot tolerate Kuwait's "agreement" to the establishment of a floating U.S. base in Kuwaiti waters. Contending that Kuwaiti denials of such an agreement "solve nothing," the radio said Iran will never allow the United States to set up a base near its coastal waters and any such base will be "destroyed." Iranian Supreme Court President Ayatollah Musavi Ardabili likewise berated Kuwait in a Friday sermon broadcast by the radio and he warned that Iran will not hesitate to attack U.S. "bases" in Kuwaiti waters.

Other Gulf Attacks—Iranian gunboats carried out two attacks on tankers in the southern Gulf 6 December, firing at the Danish-owned *Estelle Maersk* and the Singapore-registered *Norman Atlantic*, AFP reported. One seaman was killed and another injured in the attack on the Danish ship. Tehran radio reported the attacks by "speedboats," noting that a rescue helicopter crashed while attempting to land on the deck of the *Estelle Maersk*.

As for Iraq's air activity, the commander of the Iraqi Air Force expressed "deep regret" that an Iraqi plane bombed the Saudi island of Al-'Arabiyah "by mistake" 4 December, INA reported. The attack was the result of a navigational error, he said, adding that "such technical mistakes are usually possible." A Saudi military source cited by SPA confirmed that an Iraqi bomb was dropped erroneously on the island, but denied Western reports that it inflicted casualties. There was no loss of life or property, the spokesman said, and both Iraq and Saudi Arabia consider the matter "closed" after holding contacts on the accident.

Iraqi planes also hit a second maritime target off the Iranian coast 4 December, according to an Iraqi communique reported by INA.

Iran and the USSR—Soviet President Andrey Gromyko received the Iranian ambassador 4 December at the latter's request, TASS reported, noting that the envoy delivered a message from Iranian leaders to the USSR. Gromyko reportedly told the ambassador that despite Iran's public pronouncements about seeking an end to the war, it is "practically not carrying the matters toward ending the war." If Iran really stopped the war and embarked on a political settlement of disputes with Iraq, "nobody would assess this step as a defeat for Iran," Gromyko said, and Iran would gain much more than it would lose. These remarks by Gromyko were not mentioned in Tehran radio's account of the meeting.

The UAE paper *Al-Ittihad* reported 5 December that the USSR has warned Iran against launching a large-scale military offensive against Iraq, stressing the "negative" repercussions of an offensive at this time, WAKH reported. However, the same paper also alleged that Iran recently received Soviet-made aircraft from an East Bloc state, as well as antiship missiles from the PRC, according to WAM.

Iran and the UN—Following his return home from New York, Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani expressed "concern over the slow progress of talks," Tehran radio reported. He likewise claimed that Iran is "dismayed and disappointed" by the delays in implementing UN Security Council Resolution 598, according to IRNA, and he accused Iraq and the United States of trying to block implementation of the resolution.

A commentator on Riyadh radio maintained that it is a "waste of time" to expect a positive reply from Iran over implementing Resolution 598, adding that Iran's attempt to "sidestep" the resolution has been aided by the "loose" attitude of the USSR, which is a "major obstacle" preventing implementation of the resolution.

Iran-France

The French authorities arrested several dozen members of the Iranian opposition group Mojahedin-e Khalq 7 December and will shortly expel them from France, Paris radio announced.

Iraq

New oil fields have been discovered in the northern, central, and southern sectors, according to an announcement by the director general of the Iraqi Oil Exploration Company cited by Voice of the Masses radio 6 December. The official disclosed that geological survey work has confirmed "tangible additions" to Iraq's oil reserves.

Egypt

Mubarak-Husayn Consultations—Jordanian King Husayn made a short working visit to Cairo 6 December during which he and President Husni Mubarak conferred on recent developments in the areas of Arab and international affairs, MENA reported citing a remarks to the press by the Egyptian information minister. In response to a question, the minister said that the two leaders always discuss "issues pertaining to Arab reconciliation and solidarity," and he noted that Mubarak and

Husayn were briefed on results of a recently concluded meeting of the joint Egyptian-Jordanian higher committee. According to an *Al-Ittihad* report cited by Radio Monte Carlo 7 December, King Husayn proposed that Egyptian and Syrian officials meet in Amman early in 1988 and disclosed that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad "showed an understanding" of the Jordanian monarch's desire to "reconcile" Cairo and Damascus.

Treatment of Israeli Protests—According to a 3 December report in *Al-Wafd*, Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid has instructed his ministry's Israel Department to accept no protest notes from the Israeli ambassador and to disregard requests from Israeli officials for meetings with Foreign Ministry staff.

Israel

West Bank, Gaza Attacks—The PFLP claimed responsibility for a roadside bomb which exploded 5 December near a car in which Tehiya Party MK Eli'ezer Waldman was traveling in Halhul, north of Hebron, Radio Monte Carlo reported, noting that Waldman was unharmed by the attack. A curfew imposed on Halhul by security forces investigating the incident was lifted the next day, Jerusalem television reported.

A curfew was also imposed in Gaza after an Israeli man was stabbed to death there 6 December, Jerusalem radio reported.

Arab Press on Israeli Intentions—The Amman paper *Al-Ra'y* cited "private Israeli information" about Israeli plans to retaliate for the 25 November PFLP-GC operation by striking at a Syrian military target, "which could be a long-range surface-to-surface missile base." The attack will begin with an air strike on PFLP-GC bases in Syria, the paper predicted, adding that Israel has delayed its retaliation because it is engaged in large-scale military preparations. Other Arab press reports cited by KUNA claimed that the United States has refused to give Israel approval for an attack on Syrian targets and that the USSR has warned Israel against attacking Syria.

For Israel's part, Jerusalem radio noted that Israel reacted to U.S. and West European appeals for restraint with the "customary" statement that Israel alone will decide when, where, and how to react.

Lebanon

Eleven SLA soldiers were killed when their post at Jazzin was subjected to a rocket and machinegun attack by Muslim fighters 5 December, Beirut radio reported. In acknowledging the attack, the SLA announced that only three soldiers died, the radio added.

Palestinian Affairs

Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, entrusted the Soviet envoy in Sanaa with an "important and urgent" message for CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev, Radio Monte Carlo reported 4 December. According to KUNA, the message is among the PLO's "intensive activities" to have the Palestinian question discussed at the upcoming U.S.-Soviet summit.

Libya

Message to Gorbachev—Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi asked the Soviet ambassador to Libya to convey an "urgent message" to CPSU General Secretary Gorbachev on the subject of the upcoming U.S.-Soviet summit, Tripoli radio reported 5 December. While supporting the USSR's efforts for disarmament and peace, the message expressed "concern" that, considering recent U.S. statements, the meeting's consequences will be at the "expense" of the peoples of Angola, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Libya, and Chad, the radio added.

Cooperation With YAR—A joint investment company was established and measures toward economic, social, and cultural cooperation were decided, according to a joint Libyan-YAR statement carried by JANA 6 December following the YAR Council of Ministers' 3-day visit. In a predeparture statement cited by the agency 5 December, YAR Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd Al-Ghani declared that such bilateral cooperation is "appropriate and good for the restoration of Arab unity." Earlier in the day Libyan leader Al-Qadhdhafi had hosted a luncheon for the YAR ministers after which they conducted an "intellectual dialogue" on the subjects of Arab unity and the "challenges" to the Arab peoples.

Sudan

Upon returning home from a meeting with Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam in Kampala, Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi announced that a bilateral committee will be established to study the problems between the two countries, SUNA reported 5 December. Al-Mahdi termed his talks with Mengistu "successful and responsible" and noted that both countries have agreed to solve the conflict that could "lead to war," SUNA added. In subsequent remarks cited by the agency 7 December, the prime minister declared that efforts to recapture Kurmuk will not be affected by "diplomatic efforts" and that no foreign military help is needed.

Regarding combat activity, an *Al-Siyasah* report cited by AFP revealed that 200 rebels were killed in "hand-to-hand fighting" outside Kurmuk 4 December. A military statement carried by the paper also announced that government forces have regained control of Al-Damazin, north of Kurmuk, and that a curfew has been imposed and entry to the town restricted in an effort to consolidate security in the area. Radio Monte Carlo reported

the paper's disclosure that "senior" Sudanese Government officials and SPLA representatives recently held "fruitful and constructive" discussions in an unnamed European capital.

Tunisia

President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali revoked the sentences of Ahmed Mestiri, secretary general of the Movement of Social Democrats, and of 164 people serving prison terms in connection with the January 1984 riots and other incidents, Tunis radio reported 5 December. A further 6 people who received life imprisonment had their sentences reduced to 20 years, and 18 people convicted in the Islamic Liberation Party case as well as 608 people convicted by "common law courts" in the Islamic Tendency Movement case all had their sentences revoked. In addition, an unspecified number of people also convicted by the common law courts were pardoned, the report stated.

In further confirmation of his "eagerness to see the new era," President Ben Ali met with Habib Achour, former secretary general of the General Union of Tunisian Workers, Tunis radio reported. According to TAP, Ben Ali also held talks with Mohamed Harmel, secretary general of the Tunisian Communist Party.

Afghanistan

Opposition Rejects Coalition—Muhammed Yunis Khalis, leader of the seven-party opposition alliance, rejected the possibility of forming a coalition government with the PDPA, AFP reported, quoting Khalis that the alliance "cannot compromise with the communists."

Attacks Protested to Pakistan—The Pakistani charge in Kabul was summoned to receive a "strong protest" regarding missile attacks on Afghan Government installations near Towr Kham, Nangarhar Province, 3-5 December which caused "heavy losses," Kabul radio reported.

Amnesty Granted—In accordance with a 29 November amnesty decree which provides for the release of some 5,000 prisoners, 2,300 inmates were released from the Pol-e Charkhi central prison and 94 were freed from the Jalalabad prison, Kabul radio reported 6 December, adding that implementation of the decree continues.

Mauritania

Three Army officers sentenced to death for having participated in an abortive coup attempt were executed by firing squad, AFP reported 6 December.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Trying To Get Issue on Summit Agenda

LD060933 Kuwait KUNA in English 0807 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] Belgrade, Dec 6 (KUNA)—Palestine Liberation Organization is currently undergoing intensive activities on different levels in order to table the Palestinian cause on the summit agenda of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan, who are scheduled to meet in Washington on December 8. KUNA quoted sources of the PLO's bureau here as saying that within the Palestinian moves is the message by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to Gorbachev, which was handed to Soviet ambassador to Sanaa on Friday.

The sources added that PLO has proposed to the Palestine committee in the Non-aligned Movement to send cables to both U.S. and Soviet leaders to urge them to find a just solution for the Palestinian cause. Another PLO proposal is asking the Palestine committee, and head of Non-aligned Movement, Zimbabwe's Prime Minister Robert Mugabe to send separate cables to Reagan and Gorbachev on behalf on the Non-aligned Movement to discuss the Palestinian cause.

The two superpower leaders are expected to discuss beside the international peace and security issues, regional problems including the Gulf war, and Mideast crisis.

'Arafat Meets Military Commanders in Tunis

JN051912 Baghdad Voice of the PLO 1806 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has chaired a closed meeting for several military commanders at his place of residence in Tunis. During this closed meeting, which lasted more than 3 hours, brother leader Abu 'Ammar reviewed the military situation in Lebanon, particularly in the south, following the escalation of Zionist military concentrations, which indicate a possible large-scale enemy military strike on Palestinian camps and our forces' positions there.

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar listened to the military commanders' opinions, as well as what has been achieved on the level of combat preparedness and the maximum state of alert to confront any expected Zionist aggression.

Meets Commanders in Sanaa

JN042109 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] Brother Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, held a meeting with Palestinian military commanders in Sanaa this evening.

The Palestinian news agency, WAFA, said that Brother Yasir 'Arafat discussed with them during this meeting the prospects of the military situation in Lebanon after reviewing with them all the information available to the Palestinian leadership on Zionist preparations to deliver a strike against the villages and camps of southern Lebanon. The agency added that Brother 'Arafat briefed the military commanders on the latest political developments, including those related to endeavors to convene an international Mideast peace conference to help realize the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, foremost of which is their right to establish an independent state, especially in light of the forthcoming Soviet-U.S. summit. He also apprised them of the possibilities of resolving various issues in the international arena.

DFLP Warns of 'Reactionary Arab Attempts'

JN041830 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] The DFLP Central Committee has issued a statement in which it hailed the uprising in the occupied territories and called for boosting unified action there. It also voiced support for the efforts being exerted to end the camps war in Lebanon.

The DFLP Central Committee warned of what it called reactionary Arab attempts, particularly efforts by the Jordanian regime, to liquidate the Palestine question. It also called for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598, which demands an end to the Iraq-Iran war.

Reportage on Anti-Israeli Operations

Communique Notes Attacks

JN042031 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1813 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Communique issued by the military spokesman for the Palestinian Revolution Forces General Command; date and place not given]

[Text] Pursuant to instructions, our heroic revolutionaries operating inside the occupied homeland carried out three daring operations against occupation centers and patrols in various areas in the occupied West Bank in the past 2 days. The operations inflicted human and material losses on the enemy. The following is a roundup of these operations:

First, on the night before last, our heroes attacked a Zionist military bus with incendiary grenades at the entrance to the city of Al-Birah. The attack set the bus ablaze and injured its occupants.

Second, on the night before last, our revolutionaries used incendiary grenades to attack a Zionist military vehicle traveling in Bayt Sahur. The attack caused large-scale damage to the vehicle.

Third, our heroes used hand and incendiary grenades to attack an observation position belonging to the occupation forces in the Balatah camp area. The attack killed or wounded a large number of enemy personnel. After all these operations, our heroes returned safely to base. Revolution until victory.

Attack by Abu Musa Group

JN051840 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] In Damascus, the Fatah dissident Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muraghah] group has claimed responsibility for the explosion yesterday on an Israeli train on the Haifa-Tel Aviv line. According to the statement issued by the Abu Musa group, the explosion resulted in an unspecified number of casualties among train passengers and damage to several of the cars. An Israeli police source had stated that the explosion of the small bomb did not result in any loss of life.

PFLP Claims Halhul Attack

JN061607 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] In a military communique distributed in Damascus this morning, the PFLP announced its responsibility for the Halhul operation against Israeli Knesset member Eli'ezer Waldman last night. Waldman belongs to the extreme rightist Tehiya Party. The PFLP said that this operation is in retaliation for Israel's aggressive provocations, which coincide with the 20th anniversary of the PFLP.

Israel admitted the operation and said that the Knesset member's companion was slightly wounded. Reports also noted that a large Israeli force was rushed to the scene of the operation, which took place on the road between Hebron and Halhul in the occupied West Bank. The force launched a large-scale search operation.

PLO Radio Condemns Closure of U.S. Office

JN061218 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1831 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Dear brothers: The U.S. Administration has finally carried out its arbitrary decision to close the Palestine Information Office in Washington, as the office was officially closed yesterday. There is no doubt that this step, which confirms once again the U.S. Administration's absolute bias toward the Israeli enemy, also sharply reflects the truth regarding the official U.S. enmity toward the PLO, the Palestinian people, and their just cause. This is the enmity that has so far produced frenzied campaigns to liquidate the PLO, end all forms of its existence, and settle the Palestinian question in a manner that does not restore to our people their most basic rights. Such a result leads to nothing other than our people's destitution and the consecration of the Israeli occupation of their homeland, Palestine's territories.

On another level, the U.S. Administration's implementation of its hostile and arbitrary decision to close the Palestine Information Office in Washington is an action that exposes to the greatest extent possible the truth regarding the absence of U.S. credibility over Washington's alleged eagerness and efforts to bring about peace in the Middle East. This issue has perhaps been clear all the time. It has never at any time been ambiguous. The United States has repeatedly manifested the truth about its hostile stand, which harbors animosity toward a just peace in the Middle East, using direct and indirect means despite the claims and propaganda to the contrary. This stand has always sought to conclude separate settlements based on nothing other than the conditions imposed by expansionist and hostile Israel, which are basically U.S. conditions.

The truth regarding the official U.S. enmity toward our people and their just cause has been in no need of proof for a long time. The masses of our Palestinian people have seen the truth regarding the U.S. stand, its dimensions, and practical details through the F-16 planes which have dropped thousands of tons of destructive bombs on their camps in Lebanon. They have also seen the truth regarding this hostile stand in various, nay, all the U.S. Administration's political, military, economic, and financial stands which are totally biased toward the enemy's entity, which support its continued occupation of our country's territories, and which also bolster its continued aggressions, expansionism, and its escalation of the war of extermination against our militant people, their just national cause, and their sole legitimate representative, the PLO.

One bitterly wonders why the Arab protests over the U.S. Administration's decision to close the Palestine Information Office have remained so weak and timid that nobody heeded them. The more bitter question is why this situation prevails and why and for how long will we remain content with condemning all that the United States does to us.

Chad

Libyans, Junblatt Mercenaries Said Clashing

AB051342 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1335 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] Fighting has continued since last Sunday [29 November] between units from the regular Libyan Army and the Lebanese and Palestinian mercenaries of Walid Junblatt. The latter forces had come to Libya to lend a hand to the Tripoli regime in its war against Chad. These clashes, which are of a rare violence, have been fought with heavy weapons and have already left roughly (40?) dead, with hundreds of wounded on both sides. The incidents have assumed such a scope that the Walid Junblatt [words indistinct] was obliged to precipitately come to Tripoli last Thursday [3 December] evening (?to try) to find a solution. Apparently, however, the problem has not yet been solved, for the fighting still continued this morning. It should be recalled that Walid Junblatt and [words indistinct] sent a 1,000-man unit from their respective factions to fight against the Chadian Army and alongside the Libyan troops [words indistinct]. Moussa Dabo, what has caused these clashes?

[Dabo] According to information available to us, this bloody combat is due to the Libyan Army and the (?Lebanese and Palestinian) mercenaries stationed at Aozou having problems living together. The latter [words indistinct] their arrogance toward the Libyan troops (?defeated) several times by Chadian troops. The Libyan troops (?are shocked) by the contempt shown by these costly mercenaries Libya has hired. Furthermore, the mercenaries wanted to have full control over the military operations [words indistinct], but the Libyans want to control or supervise the operations and to be informed of their allies' slightest movements and actions. These differences between the two occupation forces, compounded by the hostile nature of the terrain, eventually [words indistinct] resulting in the clashes that have continued for a week at Aozou.

Islamic Legion Reportedly Kills Policeman

AB052011 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] The mercenaries in the pay of the tyrant of Tripoli are facing difficulties in Darfur Province, in western Sudan, which shares a border with our country. (?Some) of these persons belonging to the Islamic Legion clashed with the Sudanese Police. This resulted in the death of one policeman. The police seized (?two) Land Rovers filled with arms and ammunitions, as well as $2,000 in Libyan dinars. The abuses and extortions committed by the members of the Islamic Legion stationed in the region undoubtedly lie at the heart of the clash.

President Asks U.S. for More Stinger Missiles

LD041918 Paris International Service in French 1800 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] Hissein Habre is asking the United States and France for increased military aid to face Libya, which he described as an overequipped aggressor with too large a stock of weapons. The Chadian president especially believes that he does not have enough Stinger antiaircraft missiles. Here he is being questioned by the fifth French television channel, a few days prior to the Franco-African summit in Antibes:

[Begin Habre recording] We find that the quantity of Stingers delivered does not meet our expectations. We are also in contact with our U.S. friends to obtain more of them. And why not ? If we can have larger quantities of these weapons, this will be even better, for we are dealing with an overequipped aggressor, one with too many weapons. [Words indistinct] the use of Stingers (?is not useful). We hope that with the effort, the intelligence, and the energy of both sides, we can achieve a solution that makes the use of weapons appear to be useless. As for French aid, the reasoning is quite similar, but our needs are such that we are pressing our friends to do a little more. [end recording]

Fundamental Frolinat Group Leaves GUNT

AB060925 Bamako Domestic Service in French 0900 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] The Fundamental Frolinat, a Chadian opposition movement which signed the Lagos accords that established the GUNT, announced in a communique published last night in Lagos that it was pulling out of the GUNT. The Fundamental Frolinat is simply pulling out of the GUNT due to the lack of frankness displayed by the GUNT authorities toward the Chadian people. This was announced in the communique which was signed by the secretary general of the GUNT, Mahamat Nour al-Massaman [name as heard].

It should be recalled that the Lagos accords led to the creation of the GUNT under the chairmanship of Goukouni Oueddei, until the forces of Hissein Habre captured Ndjamena on 7 June 1984. [date as heard]

Egypt

Israeli Embassy Protests To Be 'Disregarded'

JN061440 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 3 Dec 87 p 1

[Text] 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has issued strict instructions to officials in the Israeli department at the Foreign Ministry not to accept any protest notes from Israel's Ambassador Moshe Sason. He also gave instructions that requests by Israeli Embassy officials for meetings with Foreign Ministry staff be disregarded. Israel recently submitted several notes to protest the statements made by Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and defense minister, on Egyptian military preparations and real threats posed to Egypt.

Reportage on Visit by Jordan's King Husayn

Arrives 6 Dec

NC061100 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1056 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 6 Dec (MENA)—King Husayn of Jordan arrived in Cairo this afternoon. Today's meeting between President Mubarak and King Husayn is the 22d since relations between the two countries were restored in September 1984. The most recent meeting of the two leaders took place in Amman on 19 November during a visit by President Mubarak. It was their first meeting since the conclusion of the recent Arab summit in the Jordanian capital and the restoration of ties between Egypt and numerous Arab countries.

Mubarak, King Husayn Meet

NC061215 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1154 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 6 Dec (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan held a round of talks at 1330 today at the Presidential Palace in Al-Qubbah. Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i also attended the meeting.

Further on Talks

JN061317 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo—His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, leader of the Arab Republic of Egypt, held a meeting at the Al-Qubbah Palace this afternoon.

His Excellency President Husni Mubarak received His Majesty King Husayn upon his arrival at Cairo International Airport on a working visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt. He then accompanied him to the Al-Qubbah Palace where his majesty was accorded an official reception. A band played the royal Jordanian and Egyptian national anthems and an honor guard saluted King Husayn as he shook hands with the senior officials receiving him.

These officials included Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, the People's Assembly speaker; Dr 'Ali Lutfi, Consultative Council president; Dr 'Atif Sidqi, prime minister; Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production; Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and planning minister; Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and agriculture minister; other ministers; the dean of the diplomatic corps in Cairo; and Husayn Hamami, the Jordanian ambassador in Cairo.

The Jordanian delegation accompanying His Majesty King Husayn held a meeting with an Egyptian delegation. The Jordanian side was led by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, who joined the official delegation, and the Egyptian side was led by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi.

His Majesty King Husayn left Amman this morning. He was accompanied by 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, the court minister, and Staff Field Marshal Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces. His majesty was seen off by 'Abd al-Wahhab al-Majali, deputy prime minister; His Highness Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd, the chief chamberlian; the royal household chief; the Royal Hashemite Court's secretary general; a number of senior civilian and military officials; and the Egyptian charge d'affaires in Amman.

Al-Sharif Reviews Talks

NC061559 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 6 Dec (MENA)—Following today's Egyptian-Jordanian talks, which lasted more than 2 hours, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif reported that these discussions were part of the regular visits exchanged by President Husni Mubarak and his brother, His Majesty King Husayn. These visits, he added, stem from their desire to meet frequently to exchange views on important and major issues in the Arab region. He said that foremost among these issues are developments in the Gulf war, the coordination of stands with regard to the Palestinian problem, and joint action for holding an international conference on peace in the Middle East in light of the recent Amman summit resolution on this issue.

The information minister noted that today's meeting between the two leaders follows on the heels of the joint Egyptian-Jordanian Higher Committee meetings, chaired by the two countries' prime ministers. During these meetings, the committee reached decisions in all fields at the level of bilateral relations.

Safwat al-Sharif said that President Husni Mubarak and His Majesty King Husayn were eager to involve the two prime ministers in their bilateral talks so that they could review the most important results of the joint committee's meetings and give an impetus to Egyptian-Jordanian cooperation in various fields.

Responding to a question on whether Jordan is mediating between Syria and Egypt and between Syria and Iraq, the information minister affirmed that issues pertaining to Arab reconciliation and solidarity always top the agenda of the two leaders' meetings. He stressed the desire of Egypt and Jordan to achieve this reconciliation and solidarity for the sake of supreme Arab interests.

Meeting With Syria Proposed

JN071122 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0812 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 7 Dec (WAKH)—During his meeting with President Husni Mubarak in Cairo yesterday, Jordan's King Husayn proposed the holding of a meeting between Syrian and Egyptian officials in Amman at the beginning of next year to end differences between the two countries. The Abu Dhabi-based *Al-Ittihad* reported that the Jordanian monarch had informed the Egyptian president that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad showed an understanding of King Husayn's desire to reconcile Egypt and Syria.

Jordanians Depart 6 Dec

NC061403 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1357 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 6 Dec (MENA)—His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan and his accompanying delegation left Cairo at 1530 today after a visit of several hours. During his visit, he held talks with President Husni Mubarak on the latest developments in the Middle East situation.

Further on Joint Jordanian Committee Talks

JN032138 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The meetings of the seventh session of the joint Higher Jordanian-Egyptian Committee began at the Prime Ministry in Cairo under the cochairmanship of Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi. During the session, they undertook a comprehensive review of the progress of fraternal bilateral cooperation and integration. They also reviewed the accomplishments achieved in various economic, trade, agricultural, information, tourist, transportation and communication, labor, electricity, energy, and higher education fields. The committee studied future prospects for bringing about further bilateral coordination and cooperation in the interest of the peoples in both countries.

On behalf of Jordan the talks were attended by the ministers of labor and social development; agriculture; industry, trade, and supply; energy and mineral resources; higher education; transportation; information; culture, tourism, and antiquities; the deputy governor of the Central Bank of Jordan; the under secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade; the Jordanian ambassador in Cairo; the economic adviser at the Prime Ministry; and the director of the Prime Minister's Office.

Egypt was represented by the deputy prime ministers for foreign affairs, planning, and agriculture; the governor of the Central Bank; the ministers of transport and communications, electricity and energy, information, industry, petroleum and mineral resources, economy and foreign trade, tourism and civil aviation, scientific research, health, education, manpower and training, and international cooperation; the Egyptian ambassador in Amman; the secretary general of the Prime Ministry; and the head of the Arab Affairs Department at the Foreign Ministry.

Following the conclusion of the first session of the committee's meetings, Information Minister Muhammad al-Khatib said that Dr 'Atif Sidqi had opened the meeting by expressing satisfaction with the success achieved by the higher committee to bolster and develop joint action between the two fraternal states. This is considered to be an example to be emulated in relations among fraternal Arab states. Dr Sidqi paid tribute to the roles being played by His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. He also praised their shared eagerness to build strong relations on firm bases that will bind the two fraternal states and the one people in Jordan and Egypt. Dr Sidqi paid tribute to the role played by His Majesty King Husayn in the success of the Amman Arab summit and in bringing about Arab reconciliation and solidarity.

The information minister reported that Zayd al-Rifa'i then spoke and expressed his appreciation, as well as that of the Jordanian delegation, for Egypt—president, government, and people. He indicated that the committee meetings are being held in the wake of what has been accomplished at the Amman summit and following Egypt's occupation of its natural and pioneering position in the Arab homeland. Al-Rifa'i also praised the spirit of brotherhood and the exchange of views that have prevailed in the relationship binding His Majesty King Husayn to His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. Al-Khatib added that the prime minister had evaluated the results of the joint Jordanian-Egyptian action, saying: We tried to realize through our executive performance the ambitions of the supreme leadership in both Jordan and Egypt and to express the two peoples' desire to cement bilateral cooperation in all political, economic, cultural, and social spheres. The minister noted that Zayd al-Rifa'i had also spoken about the steps that have been taken to help integrate the two states and added: This undoubtedly represents a nucleus for joint Arab action.

Al-Khatib continued: Afterward, the higher committee discussed topics related to economic cooperation and bialteral trade. It also discussed bilateral coordination in the fields of industry, planning, agriculture, petroleum and mining, energy, and transportation. The higher committee will resume its meetings tomorrow, Friday.

Delegations Confer

NC061244 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1222 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] [No dateline as received]—Egyptian and Jordanian delegations have held a round of talks at the Presidential Palace in Al-Qubbah. It was attended for Egypt by Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production; Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid,

deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Usamah al-Baz, director of the President's Office for Political Affairs; and Ihab Wahbah, the Egyptian ambassador to Jordan.

'Adnan Abu Awdah, Royal Court minister; Staff Field Marshal Zayd Iban Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces; and Ambassador Husayn Hamami, Jordanian ambassador to Cairo, represented Jordan at the talks.

Mubarak Sends Messages to Reagan, Gorbachev
NC041403 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today sent separate messages to U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Gorbachev on the occasion of the Soviet-U.S. summit, which will be held in Washington next Monday. This was stated by a responsible official in the Foreign Ministry. He added that the messages were delivered in Cairo.

Al-Baz Comments on U.S.-Soviet Summit
NC051708 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has stated that the United States and the Soviet Union bear significant responsibility for resolving regional problems, the foremost of which are the Palestinian issue, the Gulf war, securing Lebanon's safety, and ending the military presence in Afghanistan.

Dr al-Baz noted that the Palestinian issue cannot endure any delay. He pointed out that it is a well-established fact that the situation in the occupied territories cannot remain static. A decisive formula must be reached to end the Israeli occupation of the occupied Arab territories and to enable the Palestinian people to exercise their legitimate rights, he asserted. In his messages to U.S. President Reagan and Soviet leader Gorbachev, President Mubarak asserted Egypt's interest in world peace and security, Al-Baz reported.

In an exclusive statement to our correspondent, Dr al-Baz said that Egypt urges the conferees at the U.S.-Soviet summit to agree on the convening of an international conference on peace in the Middle East some time next year and to overcome all obstacles now facing it.

Al-Baz concluded by saying: The conferees at the U.S.-Soviet summit will tackle vitally important issues and those that concern world peace. This entails diminishing the possibilities of an outbreak of a destructive nuclear war. He pointed out in this connection that Egypt was one of the first countries to call for the need to eliminate the possibilities of a nuclear war. The slowing down of the arms race, he added, will enable all countries to devote their resources to development projects. This is especially true for Third World countries, which suffer from major debts that hamper their economic development.

Commentary on Gulf War, U.S-USSR Summit Link
NC051347 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1240 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Commentary by 'Atif al-Ghamri]

[Text] The Gulf region is now witnessing an explicit and deliberate escalation. We are accustomed to seeing such a development prior to any regional or international meeting convened to tackle the area's problems. In this regard, Iran created a volatile and unresolvable situation in the Gulf when the Islamic conference was held in Kuwait last January and when the Arab summit was held in Amman in November. Iran is pursuing the same policy with the approach of the Washington summit. The talks which its delegate, Deputy Foreign Minister Jawad Larijani, had with the UN secretary general to bring about an end to the Iraq-Iran war have stumbled at a time when Iran is concentrating its troops in order to launch a major assault against Iraq.

Regardless of Iran's motives to continue the Gulf war and to decide it militarily rather than at a negotiating table, Iran's policy has resulted in the Gulf war issue falling into the hands of the superpowers and not the regional powers, be they the countries of the region, Islamic states, or Nonaligned Movement members. Had they been given the opportunity to mediate in the conflict, these countries would have found a solution acceptable to Iran and one that would have preserved its interests. Instead, Iran has thwarted all of their efforts to mediate between it and Iraq.

The two major powers now have a military presence in the region as a result of the grave escalation of that war. A large U.S. naval fleet is presently in the area for an indefinite period. Joint defense arrangements [not further identified] and a Soviet military presence prompted by Iran balance the U.S. presence. The superpowers' presence in the area is not in the interests of the region's stability and security nor, simultaneously, in Iran's long-term interests.

As the two superpowers acquire footholds in the Gulf and as the Reagan-Gorbachev summit draws closer, the Gulf war has now become a topic that the two leaders will discuss within a framework completely different from that which the war would have been confined to had Iran not driven the situation to its present dangerous point. The two superpowers have become rivals in the Gulf. Each of them talks to the other from a position of strength, as both are present in the region with all their might and domination.

While the current situation continues in its present form, any discussion between the two powers about regional issues can only be conducted from the point of view that the issue has been linked to the general international conflict existing between the two superpowers. Therefore, any settlement reached between the two major powers with regard to the Gulf war will give priority to their own interests before those of the parties to the conflict themselves. This is a firm rule in the two powers' dealings with each other when the local parties lose their willpower to resolve their own problems. Thus, the Iranian leaders are converting the Gulf war from a mere bilateral dispute, that would have been resolved at the negotiating table, to a dangerous adventure. This adventure entails not only property destruction and grave human losses, but also allows the issue of establishing security and stability in this region to be taken from the hands of the claimants themselves, including Iran.

'Abd al-Majid Meets State Department Official

NC051957 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met today with Mr Edward Derwinski, U.S. assistant secretary of state, who is currently visiting Cairo. They discussed Egyptian-U.S. relations and ways to promote them in various fields. They also reviewed current developments in the Middle East.

More on Visit by Somali Information Minister

Meets With 'Abd al-Majid

NC051347 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 5 Dec (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met here today with Somali Information Minister Abdirashid Sheikh Ahmed. Bilateral relations, the situation in east Africa, and Egypt's role on the continent were discussed during the meeting. Dr 'Abd al-Majid accepted an invitation by the Somali foreign minister to visit Somalia, with the date to be fixed later. The Somali guest arrived here on Wednesday for a 6-day visit.

On Mediation With Ethiopia

JN051940 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 4 Dec 87 p 1

[Text] Following his meeting with President Husni Mubarak yesterday, Somali Information Minister Abdirashid Sheikh Ahmed affirmed that his country welcomes Egypt's mediation to settle the Somali-Ethiopian dispute. The meeting with President Mubarak was also attended by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif. The Somali minister added that he had conveyed to President Mubarak a written message from President Siad Barre. He said: I discussed with President Mubarak several matters concerning relations between our two countries. The minister expressed his country's pleasure at the return of diplomatic relations between Egypt and various Arab states.

Information Agreement Signed

NC052133 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Excerpt] An agreement on information cooperation between Egypt and Somalia was signed this evening. Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif signed the agreement for Egypt while Somali Information Minister Abdirashid Sheikh Ahmed signed for his country. The agreement provides for the exchange of information programs and material between the two countries, as well as the exchange of radio engineering experts and media workers. Under the agreement, training facilities will be provided for Somali media personnel in Cairo. [passage omitted]

Concludes Visit, Departs 6 Dec

NC061606 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1535 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 6 Dec (MENA)—Somali Information Minister Abdirashid Sheikh Ahmed left Cairo for Muscat today at the end of a 5-day visit to Egypt. The Somali information minister said that he is carrying a message from President Husni Mubarak to President Mohamed Siad Barre in reply to the Somali president's written message to President Mubarak. [passage omitted]

Economic Cooperation Discussed With Albania

NC061531 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1455 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 6 Dec (MENA)—Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade, met today with the Albanian economic delegation currently in Cairo, which is headed by Aksam Tatej, Albanian minister of economy [title as received]. Discussions dealt with ways to promote and develop economic cooperation between the two countries. The two parties agreed to sign a number of barter deals in 1988. They also agreed to exchange visits by economic delegations in order to strengthen and develop bilateral trade exchange.

The Albanian delegation has expressed admiration for the Egyptian products on exhibit at the Egyptian fair for export-oriented products. The Albanians have visited the fair several times since their arrival in Cairo last Thursday.

Sudan's Siwar al-Dhahab Concludes Visit

NC070638 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 7 Dec (MENA)—Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Rahman Siwar al-Dhahab, chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Islamic Call Organization, left Cairo for Khartoum early today after a visit to Egypt that lasted for several days. During his stay, he met with President Husni Mubarak. [passage omitted]

Iraqi Ambassador Presents Credentials 5 Dec

NC051428 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 5 Dec (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today received Samir al-Najm, Iraq's ambassador to Cairo, who presented him with a copy of his credentials. The Iraqi Government had decided that Al-Najm, formerly chief of the Iraqi Interests Section in Cairo, would serve as his country's ambassador in the wake of the restoration of ties between Egypt and various Arab countries.

Al-Baz Receives Palestinian Officials

NC061328 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1219 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 6 Dec (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, today received Salim al-Za'nun, member of the Fatah Central Committee, and Zuhdi al-Qadrah, PLO charge d'affaires and Fatah representative in Cairo. During the meeting, which lasted more than 2 hours, they reviewed developments in the Arab and international arenas, in addition to Egyptian-Palestinian relations and ways to promote them.

Trade Protocol for 1988 Signed With Cyprus

NC031917 Cairo MENA in English 1805 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, Dec 3 (MENA)—Today Egypt and Cyprus signed the 1988 trade protocol which provides for boosting commercial relations and expanding the volume of trade exchanges through barter deals. Under the terms of the protocol the two countries will participate in each other's exhibitions and markets. It also provides for the increase of the volume of cooperation between the Egyptian Industry Ministry and the Cypriot Center for Production.

The protocol was signed on the Egyptian side by Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade, and on the Cypriot side by Minister of Commerce and Industry Mikhail Mikhailidhis who arrived here last Sunday.

People's Assembly Delegation Leaves for Brussels

NC060830 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0807 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 6 Dec (MENA)—A People's Assembly delegation left Cairo for Brussels this morning for a 4-day visit. The delegation will attend the Socialist International conference in that city from 7-10 December to discuss the Middle East crisis and current regional issues.

The delegation includes Dr Ahmad Salamah, minister for People's Assembly and Consultative Council affairs and assistant secretary general of the NDP; Dr Kamal al-Shadhili, assistant secretary general of the NDP and chairman of the NDP's Parliamentary Group; and Dr Muhammad 'Abdallah, chairman of the NDP's Foreign Relations Committee and member of the NDP Secretariat.

Accounting Unit Rate With USSR Amended

NC051453 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 5 Dec (MENA)—It has been decided to increase the exchange rate of the accounting sterling from 1.35 Egyptian pounds to 2 Egyptian pounds. Trade transactions between Egypt and the Soviet Union are calculated on the basis of this unit. The new exchange rate will be applicable to all contracts and transactions concluded as of 10 December, as well as to all export and import deals and payments made through the appropriate banks for invisible transactions.

Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade, has stated that the new rate is aimed at promoting trade between the two countries. With this new rate, he added, the prices of the commodities exchanged between the two countries will be determined on a more realistic basis, which will be closer to the current prices of similar products in international markets. He noted that the new rate will lead to a larger volume of trade between Egypt and the Soviet Union as more items will be introduced to the bilateral trade protocol, particularly nonconventional goods. This, in turn, will allow exporters from both the public and private sectors to benefit from the Soviet Union's huge market.

The economy minister said that the old rate of exchange, 1.35 Egyptian pounds, will remain valid for all contracts and transactions concluded prior to 10 December.

Debt-Rescheduling Talks With UK 'This Month'

NC031122 Cairo MENA in English 1100 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, Dec 3 (MENA)—Egypt and Britain will hold negotiations in London this month on the re-scheduling of Egypt's debts to Britain, according to an official source at the Ministry of International Cooperation. The source told MENA that the Egyptian side had completed drafting agreements on the re-scheduling of debts with a number of countries including Sweden, preliminary to starting negotiations in this respect within the next few days.

AL-AHRAM Criticizes French-Iranian 'Deal'

NC050701 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0623 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 5 Dec (MENA)—*Al-Ahram* writes today that if there is any truth to British press reports that the release of French hostages in Lebanon was the result of a secret deal to supply Iran with spare parts for the gunboats that attack ships and tankers in the Gulf, then this would be tantamount to the Irangate scandal.

In today's editorial, the paper says that this matter is based on much more than mere rumors and press speculation, despite the French Government's official denial. It adds that France has released $300 million from a loan granted during the shah's reign and later frozen. France claims that it did so because of its intention to end the dispute between the two countries and to restore bilateral diplomatic relations. The paper asserts that this adds weight to the speculations about this deal.

Al-Ahram continues: The price for this deal could be very high. In the final analysis, this is no more than political blackmail and submission, just like previous deals. This could be repeated and continued indefinitely. Lebanon remains a venue for kidnappings. Turning any act of kidnapping into a complicated political issue is so profitable for the Iranians and their Shi'ites that they have made this an acknowledged weapon which they use to show their power to all major parties, regardless of their positions.

In conclusion, *Al-Ahram* says that submission to such political thuggery is very despicable. This mirrors the practices of criminal gangs who kidnap individuals for ransom. Countries are now mobilizing all their powers to thwart and eliminate such gangs.

Libya

Reportage on Visit of YAR Premier, Delegation

Tour Sarir River Project

LD051217 Tripoli JANA in English 0930 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 5, *Jamahiriyah News Agency*—'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, the prime minister in the Yemeni Arab Republic and member of the Permanent Committee of the General People's Congress, and members of the Yemeni Government [words indistinct] company of the secretary and members of the General People's Committee and the secretary of the congress affairs at the General People's Congress yesterday afternoon paid a visit to the project of the great man-made river at Sarir.

The Yemeni prime minister and members of the government were given a warm welcome by the people's committee for the execution and management of the project and the Libyan Arab engineers in charge of the execution of this project.

'Abd al-'Aziz and the Yemeni ministers listened to illustrations and explanations on the civilized project and the 8th miracle of the world being carried out by the Libyan Arab people thanks to the Great Al-Fatih Revolution.

Al-Humaydi Receives 'Abd al-Ghani

LD051304 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1155 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, 5 Dec (JANA)—This morning Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi [member of the Revolution Command Council] received Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, YAR prime minister and member of the Permanent Committee of the General People's Congress.

The meeting, which was attended by the brother secretary general of the General People's Committee, concerned the issue of Arab unity and ways to achieve it, the challenges that the Arab people are facing from the Atlantic to the Gulf, and ways of developing the excellent relations between the Arab people in the Great Jamahiriyah and the YAR.

During the meeting, Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani expressed his admiration for the great canal. He called it a great achievement of civilization and a gain for not only the Libyan Arab people but also for the Arab nation as a whole. Our nation is one, and any achievement made belongs to the whole nation.

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets 'Abd al-Ghani

LD052145 Tripoli JANA in English 1925 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, December 5, *Jamahiriyah News Agency*—The leader of the revolution this afternoon received 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, the prime minister and the member of the Permanent Committee of the General People's Congress in the Yemen Arab Republic, and the Yemeni members of the Council of Ministers.

Present at the reception were the secretary and members of the General People's Committee and the secretary of the congresses affairs at the General People's Congress.

'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani asserted to the leader of the revolution that the meetings of the Arab Libyan Yemeni High Commission were constructive and that agreement was reached on several joint programmes. He said the people's congresses in Great Jamahiriyah and the General People's Congress in the Yemen Arab Republic have got a great role in the consolidation of and development of cooperation and closeness between the one Arab people in the two countries.

He added the meeting provided a great opportunity for the gathering of brother members of the Council of Ministers in the Yemen Arab Republic and members of the General People's Committee to study ways so as to secure closeness and economic integration along the path of an all out unity.

'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani expressed his total admiration and appreciation of the project of the Great Man-Made River. He said it is a great Arab achievement which calls for pride and that it is an Arab achievement in favour of the one Arab nation asserting that it is truly one of the world's miracles.

At the end of the reception symbolic presents were given to the prime minister and members of the Council of Ministers of the Yemen Arab Republic. The presents were Al-Jalit pistols manufactured in Libya. The pistols carry the name of one of the heroes of the Libyan holy war against Italian colonialism.

Fisheries Committee Agreed

LD052153 Tripoli JANA in English 1819 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 5, *Jamahiriyah News Agency*—The secretary of the General People's Committee for Industry this morning met with Husayn 'Abdallah al-'Amri, the minister of agriculture and fisheries and member of the Permanent Committee of the General People's Congress in the Yemen Arab Republic.

The meeting discussed ways of bolstering bilateral cooperation in the sphere of industry between the two sisterly countries especially in the field of fisheries and the tinning of fish as well as the manufacturing of boats and their maintenance. It was agreed that a joint committee to be set up in the field of fishing and sea resources so as to use modern technology in the field and the studies of the availability of fish in Great Jamahiriyah and the Yemen Arab Republic.

Unity Programs Discussed

LD052146 Tripoli JANA in English 1815 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 5, *Jamahiriyah News Agency*—A series of meetings took place this morning between the members of the General People's Committee and the Council of Ministers of the Yemen Arab Republic in the light of the enlarged joint united second meeting of the General People's Committee and the Council of Ministers of the Yemen Arab Republic.

During these meetings, ways to secure the execution of the joint programmes of unity and the consolidation of efforts aimed at the realisation of unionist steps, agreed during the meetings of the General People's Committee and the Yemeni Council of Ministers in accordance with the unionist directives between the two sisterly countries, were reviewed.

Joint Holding Company Formed

LD052132 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1807 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, 5 Dec (JANA)—This afternoon, the brother leader of the revolution attended a ceremony at the Tripoli Cavalry School that marked the signing of a statement by the Supreme Libyan Arab-Yemeni Committee, which held its second session. This ceremony also marked the signing of an agreement establishing a joint holding company known as the "Libyan Arab-Yemeni Holding Company."

The Supreme Committee statement was signed by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee and by Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Permanent Committee of the YAR General People's Congress.

The agreement establishing the Libyan Arab-Yemeni Holding Company was signed by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Planning and by Brother Muhammad al-Khadim al-Wajih, YAR minister of economy, trade, and supply and member of the Permanent Committee of the General People's Congress.

The signing ceremony was attended by the brother members of the General People's Committee, the secretary of congresses affairs at the General People's Congress, and the brother members of the YAR Council of Ministers.

Attempt on Al-Qadhdhafi Condemned

LD061015 Tripoli JANA in English 0852 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, December 6, *Jamahiriyah News Agency*—'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, the prime minister and member of the Permanent Committee of the General People's Congress, and members of the Yemeni Council of Ministers yesterday visited the house of the leader of the revolution and inspected the effects of the aborted American-Atlantic barbaric aggression against the life of the leader of the revolution.

The Yemeni prime minister and members of the Council of Ministers reiterated their condemnation of the imperialist aggression asserting that the act expresses the savage spirit which dominates the American imperialist logic.

They asserted, from the effects of the aggression, that the life of the leader of the revolution was the main aim of American bombs, missiles and warplanes.

Accompanying the Yemeni prime minister and members of the Council of Ministers were the secretary of the General People's Committee and members of the committee.

Al-Qadhdhafi Hosts Luncheon

LD052138 Tripoli JANA in English 1855 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, December 5, *Jamahiriyah News Agency*—The leader of the revolution this afternoon held a luncheon, at the equestrian school in Tripoli, in honour of 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, the prime minister and the member of the Permanent Committee of the General People's Congress in the Yemen Arab Republic, and the members of the Yemeni Council of Ministers.

Attending the luncheon were the secretary and members of the General People's Committee and the secretary of the congresses affairs at the General People's Congress.

At the end of the luncheon an intellectual dialogue took place between the leader of the revolution and the Yemeni prime minister and ministers covering the Arab unity, and the imperialist, Zionist and colonial challenges being faced by the Arab nation from the ocean to the Gulf.

'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani made a speech at the end of the luncheon starting it with saluting the great revolutionary efforts being exerted by the leader of the revolution for the realisation of Arab unity.

'Abd al-Ghani on Need for Unity

LD061522 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 6 Dec (JANA)—'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, YAR prime minister and member of the Standing Committee of the General People's Congress, yesterday spoke at the close of a banquet that was hosted by the brother leader of the revolution. The banquet was held in honor of Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani and the YAR Council of Ministers.

Brother 'Abd al-Ghani stated: We thank the intellectual and revolutionary brother leader for his important statement on what concerns us as two Arab peoples aspiring to rebuild unity between our two peoples and two countries. Thanks be to God, we are now making large strides toward realizing this noble aim that our nation expects from us. As the brother colonel noted in his speech at the opening of the joint Libyan-YAR Higher Committee, the rebuilding of Arab unity cannot proceed without this project. As things now stand, the Arab nations are destined to disintegrate if they do not rebuild their unity. The Arab nation cannot rise up and march foward unless it has come together to rebuild its unity and has become aware of the great dangers it is exposed to. These dangers have been coming from various directions: north, south, east, and west. They can only be destroyed when the Arab nation becomes united to a man and realizes where its real interests lie.

From this starting point, the two Libyan and Yemeni peoples, thanks to the two leaderships of our countries, God willing, will be able to progress so that the relationship between our two peoples becomes an example that can be followed by the rest of the Arab people. [passage omitted]

YAR Delegation Departs

LD052157 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1905 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 5 Dec (JANA)—Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Permanent Committee of the General People's Congress, and the members of the YAR Council of Ministers departed Tripoli this evening at the conclusion of the second joint unionist meeting of the Libyan General People's Committee and the YAR Council of Ministers. [passage omitted]

Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani made a statement to a JANA correspondent. [passage omitted] He said that the results of the visit were displayed by the establishment of joint ventures between Yemen and Libya through joint investment, for which a special investment company was established, and by the efforts for economic and cultural cooperation and the various aspects of cooperation in all fields that we agreed upon. This cooperation will, God willing, form the basis for restoring Arab unity.

As for both taking the necessary steps to realize Arab unity and the statement made by the brother leader of the revolution, that the Yemeni national charter stresses the need for comprehensive Arab unity, Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz said: "I believe the types of cooperation between the Great Jamahiriyah and the YAR are appropriate and good for the restoration of Arab unity. The supreme Yemeni Arab-Libyan committee—which is composed of representatives of the governments of the two brotherly countries and which has now held its second session following the first one held in Sanaa—is, I believe, the correct way to achieve what our Arab nation aspires to; namely, the restoration of Arab unity among the masses of the one Arab nation."

Joint Communique Issued

LD070308 Tripoli JANA in English 1453 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 6, *Jamahiriyah News Agency*—The communique of the second session of the Arab Libyan-Yemeni High Commission, held on 11-13 Rabi'a al-Thani [in the year 1397, dated from the death of Muhammad]/3-5 Al-Kanun 1987, was issued this morning in both Tripoli and Sanaa. Following is the text:

In embodiment of the aspirations of the one Arab people in both the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the Yemen Arab Republic for integration

and unity in execution of the directives of the leaders of both countries Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution and Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the president of the Yemen Arab Republic and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and in realisation of the desire for cooperation and joint action for the development of economic, material and political capabilities for the realisation of integration between the two countries being the firm foundation for the establishment of the Arab nation, the High Commission consisting of the General People's Committee in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the Council of Ministers in the Yemen Arab Republic met in its second session in the city of Tripoli during the period 11-13 Rabi'a al-Thani 1397/1408 A.H [after the Hegira]/3-5 Al-Kanun/December/1987.

The meeting was opened by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution, with a comprehensive national speech asserting that this meeting was coming within the context of joint action considering that the two sisterly countries believe in the need and inevitability of total Arab unity. He also affirmed that the historical bonds linking the one Arab people and the dangers being faced by the Arab nation require urgent action for the realisation of the Arab nation and that this is the philosophy of glorious 26th September Revolution and the Great Al-Fatih Revolution, and that the work of this commission to be translated into drafting a formula for execution in all fields for the benefit of the Arab citizen in both countries and to be a firm basis to be followed in the Arab world. That was asserted by the speeches of the secretary of the General People's Committee and the prime minister. The High Joint Commission adopted the speech of the leader as a policy to be followed in the execution of its future programmes of action.

In a fraternal atmosphere which asserts the deep historical bonds linking the one Arab people, the High Commission reviewed the process of the existing cooperation between the two countries and expressed satisfaction on what is already achieved in various fields of cooperation agreed at the first meeting of the commission in Sanaa on 11th Rajab [words indistinct]/1405 A.H/ 1/4/1985/ and it was agreed to complete the matters agreed upon in the protocol and decided the following:

First: Economic Cooperation.

A. Investment

Considering the desire for setting up investment projects, it is agreed on the signing of an accord for setting up an Arab Libyan-Yemeni company for deposit taking entrusted with the task of conducting studies and establishing projects of economic benefit for the benefit of both countries.

The setting up of a joint agricultural company for farming, producting, manufacturing and marketing agricultural products and that experts should meet as soon as possible to discuss, debate and conclude an agreement (?regarding) this issue.

The setting up of a joint (?company) for oil services and that the experts are to meet, who are from the concerned institutions, during the first half of the year 1988 so as to reach an agreement and bring it to execution.

To work for the meeting of experts as soon as possible to study and set up a joint bank.

B. Loans and Financial Assistance

The High Commission discussed future plans and projects in the two countries and agreed on the participation of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in financing some projects of complementary nature in the third fifth [as received] plan after its study in accordance with available means and the setting up of a directed radio station on the medium wave 1000kws.

Second: Technical Cooperation in the Field of Planning.

The need for the experts of planning institutions to coordinate amongst themselves. To work for setting up a technical bureau for projects with the task of supervising and [word indistinct] up the execution of projects in which the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah is participating.

In the field of agriculture.

The continuation of cooperation in the field of researches in agriculture, animal resources and the study of soil and water.

In the field of telecommunications and transport.

The running of regular airline between the two countries and the urgent need to link the two countries with telecommunication direct and indirect means.

In the field of trade.

The meeting of experts from the commercial institutions in the two countries so as to draw a programme for the exchange of products, import and export [word indistinct] participation in international fairs and the setting up of specialised fairs.

In the health field.

The High Commission expressed satisfaction towards what has already been achieved in this field and it was decided that cooperation in this field must be developed and continued.

In the field of industry.

The need for experts to meet to study the industrial projects through which integration can be achieved.

In the field of development and construction.

The High Commission expressed satisfaction over what has already been achieved in this field and called for intensification of direct meetings between specialised institutions so as to develop and advance this cooperation.

In the field of social security.

The commission called for cooperation in exchanging researches, studies, legislations and expertise in this field.

In the field of education, youths and sports.

The High Commission expressed satisfaction on what has already been achieved in this field and it was decided that meetings amongst universities, scientific and educational institutions and youths organizations and the holding of seminars and symposia and lectures.

The commission decided the renewal of the executive programme for scientific, cultural and sports cooperation between the two countries for the coming years 1988/1990.

In the field of information of culture.

The consolidation of cooperation in the sphere of information and culture. It emphasies the need for the publication and broadcasting of the news released by the two countries news agencies.

To work for the exchange of radio and TV programmes in manner realising common objectives.

The preparation of an executive programme for the cultural and information agreement concluded by the two countries and to follow up the execution of what is decided by the High Commission and agreement was reached on the following:

To entrust the mixed Arab Libyan-Yemeni commission to follow up on matters agreed upon and to meet periodically and alternately in each country.

To lay down a determined time-table for bilateral meetings between secretaries and ministers so as to lay down an executive plan for the matters agreed upon provided the first meeting will take place between the secretary of the General People's Committee for Planning in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the minister of planning in the Yemen Arab Republic at the start of the coming year 1988.

It was agreed that the third session of the commission is to take place during the second half of 1988 in the Yemen Arab Republic.

The Yemeni Arab side in the High Commission expressed their deep thanks for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to them during their [word indistinct] in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Done in Tripoli on 13th Rabia al-Thani 1397.AP.D [after the death of the Prophet]/ 1408 A.H./ 3d-5th Al-Kanun/December 1987.

For the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, 'Umar Mustafa al-Muntasir secretary of the General People's Committee.

For Yemen Arab Republic, 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, the prime minister.

YAR Labor Minister Departs

LD062225 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1758 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, 6 Dec (JANA)—Brother Muhsin al-'Ulufi, YAR minister of labor and social affairs, departed Tripoli this evening following a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Brother Muhsin al-'Ulufi made a statement to a JANA correspondent in which he expressed his pleasure with his visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. The YAR minister of labor and social affairs then praised the fraternal relations existing between the two brotherly countries.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Reply From Gorbachev

LD051531 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received a thank-you cable expressing the gratitude of Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU and member of the Supreme Soviet Presidium. This telegram is in reply to the greetings that the leader had sent the Soviet general secretary on the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

Gives Envoy Return Message

LD051409 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] This morning, the brother leader of the revolution received the Soviet ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah and asked him to convey an urgent message to CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev. This message concerned the upcoming summit conference between the USSR and the U.S. Administration.

The message conveys the support of the forces of the universal center and the forces of the national command of the revolutionary fighting forces for the Soviet efforts for disarmament and establishing world peace.

The message says that if this historic aspiration of the human race is realized, credit for this would go to Gorbachev. This is because it would be in his era that it became possible to eliminate nuclear weapons and the dangers they hold for the human race. This would also prove that the Soviet policy for disarmament and establishing international peace is capable of saving mankind from annihilation, which it is exposed to due to the stockpiling of nuclear weapons. At the same time, this act will also create favorable international conditions for eliminating other weapons and the causes of fear and tension caused by the terror prevailing in international relations.

The message additionally expresses the concern of the peoples of Angola, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, the Great Jamahiriyah, and Chad over the statements the U.S. Administration recently made about the aforementioned meeting and its objectives. The peoples are worried that this meeting and its consequences will come at their expense.

Arrival of 'Zionist' Officers in Chad Deplored

LD051655 Tripoli JANA in English 1434 GMT
5 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 5, *Jamahiriyah News Agency*—JANA has learnt from reliable sources that relations between Ndjamena and the Zionist enemy took a dangerous nature in the field of military coordination and cooperation which was never seen before as a significant number of Zionist officers and experts arrived in Ndjamena last week.

Many meetings were held with officers of Habre during which coordination for joint military action to hit a target within the Libyan Arab territory was coordinated.

Wang Renzhong, PRC Delegation Continue Visit

Received by Jallud

LD051636 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1534 GMT
5 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, 5 Dec (JANA)—Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud today received Wang Renzhong, deputy chairman of the Standing Committee of the PRC's National People's Congress, and his accompanying delegation.

Conclude Visit, Depart

LD051639 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1530 GMT
5 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, 5 Dec (JANA)—Wang Renzhong, deputy chairman of the Standing Committee of the PRC's National People's Congress, and his accompanying delegation departed Tripoli today following a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

The deputy chairman of the Standing Committee of the PRC's National People's Congress made a statement to a JANA correspondent in which he expressed his pleasure and that of his accompanying delegation with their visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

He lauded the great civilized achievements benefiting the Libyan people that were made possible in various fields, thanks to the Great September Revolution.

He also stressed the importance of improving the consolidation of cooperation relations between the two friendly countries.

PFLP Political Bureau Member Qu'bah Arrives

LD051151 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0845 GMT
5 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, 5 Dec (JANA)—Brother Taysir Qu'bah, member of the PFLP Political Bureau, arrived in Tripoli last night on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Brother Taysir made a statement to JANA in which he said: We consider the Great Jamahiriyah the bastion of the Arab struggle. It is natural for us to visit it regularly to hold consultations on issues of concern to the Arab nation. There are a number of Arab countries that have restored relations with the stable David regime. The Great Jamahiriyah opposes the schemes of stable David, which aims at liquidating our Arab nation and its future.

Lebanon's Junblatt, Palestinian Official Arrive

LD041401 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic
1815 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] Brother Walid Junblatt, chairman of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party, arrived in Tripoli this evening on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. Brother Dr Samir Ghawshah, secretary general of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, also arrived this evening.

Burkinabe Defense Minister, Delegation Arrive

LD050941 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0830 GMT
5 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, 5 Dec (JANA)—Jean-Baptiste Boukary Lingani, minister of popular defense and security of the Burkinabe Jamahiriyah, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli last night to begin a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Minister Received by Al-Qadhdhafi

LD062140 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received Jean-Baptiste Boukary, Burkinabe minister of popular defense. The visitor gave him a message from Captain Blaise Compaore [chairman of the Popular Front and head of state].

The brother leader of the revolution has also received the ambassador of the Republic of Mali to the Great Jamahiriyah. The envoy gave him a verbal message from President Moussa Traore.

Mauritania

Firing Squad Executes 3 Army Officers 6 Dec

AB061130 Paris AFP in French 1112 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] Nouakchott, 6 Dec (AFP)—The three Army officers sentenced to death last Thursday [3 December] by the Mauritanian special court of justice, following the trial of 51 people implicated in last October's abortive coup attempt in Nouakchott, were executed at dawn today, it was learned from a well informed source in the Mauritanian capital. The three—Lieutenants Ba Saidy, Sarr Amadou, and Sy Saidou from the Negro-African Toucouleur ethnic group—were executed by firing squad.

N'diayane Returns From Ethiopia, Senegal

AB061001 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] Major Mohammed Lemine Ould N'diayane, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, returned to Nouakchott yesterday evening from Dakar. In the Senegalese capital, the minister had jointly presided over the sixth session of the Mauritania-Senegal Joint Cooperation Commission. Before going to Dakar, the minister was in Addis Ababa where he had participated in the preparatory meeting for the OAU summit on African debt.

Protocol Signed With Senegal

LD071026 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Major Mohamed Lemine Ould N'diayane, CMSN member and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, returned to Nouakchott yesterday evening after a 3-day working visit to Senegal. During the visit, the minister led the Mauritanian side at the joint Mauritanian-Senegalese committee and met with Senegalese officials. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministers Mohamed Lamine and Ibrahima Fall held tete-a-tete talks in an atmosphere of brotherly understanding and friendship. The two ministers exchanged in-depth views on bilateral questions and major African and international issues. They also cochaired the meetings of the 11th session of the greater Mauritanian-Senegalese joint committee for cooperation, at the end of which several resolutions were adopted which will be submitted for the approval of the two presidents.

In this framework the two ministers signed a protocol for cultural exchange for 1988-89 and 1989-90, an agreement on social security, an agreement on technical cooperation in manpower, and an agreement concerning land transportation. [passage omitted]

Spain To Donate 4,000 Metric Tons of Wheat

AB050911 Dakar PANA in French 1055 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Nouakchott, 4 Dec (PANA)—Spain is to donate 4,000 metric tons of wheat to Mauritania. Proceeds from the sale of the wheat will go into a fund to be used as Spain's contribution to small-scale agricultural projects. The (?agreement) on this aid was signed on 3 December in Nouakchott by Dr Mohamed Sidya Ould Bah, the Mauritanian commissioner for food security, and by the Spanish ambassador to Mauritania. [passage omitted]

Kuwaiti Fund To Finance Drilling for Water

AB050548 Dakar PANA in French 1058 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] Nouakchott, 4 Dec (PANA)—The Kuwaiti Development Fund has decided to finance a project for the drilling of 125 bore holes for livestock and 25 others for rural dwellers at a total cost of 630 million ougouya (monetary unit), about 3.1 billion CFA [African Financial Community] francs. Following an important meeting yesterday of a top-level delegation of this Arab financial institution and officials of the Mauritanian Ministry of Water Supply and Energy, the Kuwaiti Fund will put the loan at Mauritania's disposal with special conditions, Radio Mauritania monitored in Dakar said. Furthermore, in a communique published in Nouakchott, the Mauritanian minister of water resources and energy expressed his satisfaction with the outcome of this project undertaken by the CEAO [West African Economic Community] with the aim of reducing the water shortage in the interior of the country.

Morocco

Paper Interviews King Hassan on Saharan Issue

LD050240 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Announcer-read interview with King Hassan by Cairo's *Al-Ahram* newspaper; date, place of interview not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Question: Let us now move to the Saharan issue. The Kingdom of Morocco welcomed the UN fact-finding technical commission, as it

accepted the organization of a referendum that gives the Saharan population the right to self-determination. What is your opinion of the current situation in the Sahara, especially in light of the recent, large battles with the Polisario forces?

Answer of his majesty the king: First, Morocco did not only welcome the UN technical commission, but it did ask for the UN commission to be formed so that this committee could see and evaluate the geographic and human aspects of the Sahara for itself. This is to prepare the United Nations for when it is time to organize the referendum in a final and just way.

At the beginning, Morocco did not want to be pushed into a referendum, because it thought that all would accept the Moroccan nature of the Sahara. However, when I realized that fables and historical distortions are a general practice all over the world, and that Morocco is being accused of matters despite the fact that it is only seeking to restore its rights, we thought: Well, this is to make it difficult; you want the referendum, we will accept the referendum. But when we called for this vote, some rejected it after having earlier vehemently supported it.

Second, and this is very important: I do not want a bilateral or a tripartitie agreement. This is because what happened between Iraq and Iran taught me a lesson. Iran and Iraq agreed in 1975 in Algiers on the border between their two countries and on everything else, but this was a bilateral agreement. As soon as it was cancelled by one of the two sides, war broke out. I want something different. I want internationally and permanently recognized borders that bind all parties. I do not want an agreement that remains subject to the goodwill of any head of state from the West or East, neither now nor in 100 years. Calling for referendums is in fact the greatest service aiding peace in any region in the world, particularly the Arab world.

Question: Have you acquired sufficient proof establishing the participation of Arab military elements in planning and carrying out the recent Polisario front operations against the Moroccan forces?

Answer of his majesty the king: Everyone knows where the Polisario lives. The Polisario has no land, no state, no capital, no system, nothing at all. It lives on land that has names, borders, flags, identity, as well as seats in all international bodies. I think that these brief sentences are enough to answer your question.

Question: Your Majesty has sent your foreign minister to Algeria. What was the aim of his mission, and is it related to the recent developments in the Saharan question, or to the future of relations between Morocco and Algeria?

Answer of his majesty the king: In fact, dialogue between Algeria and Morocco has not stopped, even if it was marked now and again by long periods of silence. The action by our brother, His Majesty King Fahd, last Ramadan between Morocco and Algeria revived and reactivated this dialogue. Mr Taleb Ibrahimi, the Algerian foreign minister, visited me after Ramadan. It was then decided that our foreign minister would repay the visit to His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid. Naturally, even if the Saharan problem is not included, it always prevails in our talks and our dialogue.

However, it was recently agreed that the Saharan question is an independent problem, and that coexistence and cooperation between Morocco and Algeria should be linked to settling this difficulty. It was decided to form think-tank committees on the issues of the exchange of interests and services, opening the border, and reviewing economic and trade relations. This will be carried out next month, or rather, the first month of next year, God willing.

Question: At a time when Moroccan-Libyan unity is frozen, moves toward Libyan-Algerian unity now appear. What is Your Majesty's opinion of these moves and their possible future prospects?

Answer of his majesty the king: Morocco considers every action that brings states in the Arab Maghreb closer together to be a noble and positive step. Our hope is to build the Arab Maghreb, whether we start in the east, west, or the middle. At the end of the century, the Arab Maghreb will have 100 million inhabitants. There will be 100 million inhabitants in Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco. The geographical location of the Maghreb between Europe and Africa is vital. Its cooperation with the developed world also compels it to form a group for dialogue, instead of acting as four or five separate countries. I thus welcome every rapprochement.

As for anyone who thinks that any rapprochement will come at the expense of this or that, we do not agree. Every state has its own special factors in defending its security and sovereignty. One should look at the negative side only in moves. As I stated, every action has its positive and negative aspects. However, we welcome anything that brings different sides closer together, especially since relations were somehow formerly lukewarm between Algeria and Libya. We are glad for the rapprochement between them, thank goodness. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Senior Officials, SPLA Hold 'Secret' Meeting

JN051834 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] A secret meeting has been held between senior Sudanese Government senior officials and representatives of the SPLA, which is led by Colonel John Garang.

The secret meeting is reported by the Sudanese paper *Al-Siyasah*, which says the meeting was held in a European capital several days ago. *Al-Siyasah* adds that ways of establishing peace and ending the civil war in southern Sudan were discussed. According to *Al-Siyasah*, the talks were fruitful and constructive and could lead to important and positive results.

Paper Says 200 Rebels Killed Outside Kurmuk

NC061253 Paris AFP in English 1231 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum, Dec 6 (AFP)—Two hundred rebels were killed in hand-to-hand fighting Friday with government troops just outside the rebel-controlled Sudanese border town of Kurmuk in the southeast, the *Al-Siyasah* newspaper reported here Sunday. The paper said that a 144-strong unit of Sudanese paratroops also regained control of Ad-Damazin, a town north of Kurmuk, which has been occupied by Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) rebels for more than three weeks. Quoting a military statement, it said that an dusk to dawn curfew was imposed on the twin towns of Ad-Damazin and Al-Rasayris, which stand on opposite banks of the Blue Nile.

The two sites were also closed to incoming traffic from dusk to dawn as of Saturday in a bid to "secure the internal front," *Al-Siyasah* said in a dispatch from Ad-Damazin. The newspaper reported that joint Army and police teams would patrol the twin towns and guard their entrances "to protect the citizens and their property."

Al-Mahdi Views Talks With Uganda's Museveni

JN051109 Khartoum SUNA in English 1025 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum, Dec 5 (SUNA)—Premier Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has reviewed with the Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni the bilateral relations and ways of their promotion. Al-Mahdi, who returned from Kampala yesterday where he took part in the conference of the preferential trade zone said in a press statement Sudan and Uganda have agreed to stop the subversive campaign against each other. "Some quarters attempt undermine relations between the countries" Al-Mahdi said without giving the names of the said quarters.

He described the security situation in Uganda as stable. On the other hand, the prime minister said he reviewed with Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, who is the current chairman of the Organization of the African Unity 'OAU' the programmes of the OAU and means of their implement. Sudan will lay down a charter for the OAU and work for activating the Afro-Arab relations," Al-Mahdi added.

Al-Mahdi Comments on Committee With Ethiopia

JN051053 Khartoum SUNA in English 1015 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum, Dec 5, (SUNA)—Sudan and Ethiopia agreed to set up a joint committee to study the problems between the two countries, Premier Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said. Al-Mahdi, who arrived here yesterday from Kampala where he participated in the zone conference of the preferential trade described his second round of talks with Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam as successful and responsible adding that both countries have agreed to respect neighbourliness and to solve the conflict between them. "The problems and differences between Sudan and Ethiopia, if they were not solved, will lead to war between them," Al-Mahdi asserted.

Al-Mahdi and Mengistu started their first round of talks last Thursday in the Ugandan capital following the tension between the two countries when Sudan accused Ethiopia of assisting Sudan People's Liberation Movement SPLM of Col John Garang in capturing the bordering town of Kurmuk.

Paper Cited on 'Tension' in Ties With Libya

JN051145 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1045 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum, 2 Dec (SUNA)—Libya threatened to sever diplomatic relations with Sudan when a Libyan personality was denied entry into the country, according to today's issue of *Al-Adwa'*. The Libyan was returned home on the same flight that had brought him to Sudan, the paper adds. Libyan authorities were not allowed to reach any Sudanese officials to discuss the matter on the phone before the plane took off, it reports. Sudanese security authorities said the Libyan personality is a security risk, and although he was refused entry several times, he was a member of several delegations that visited Khartoum in order to embarass Sudan, the paper reports. It is possible that there will be further tension between the two countries, *Al-Adwa'* adds.

Tunisia

President Issues Pardon for Mestiri, Others

LD051256 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] His Excellency Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, president of the Republic, in accordance with the declaration of 7 November, has issued an order for a presidential pardon. This act revokes the sentences passed on Ahmed Mestiri and on those 156 persons serving their sentences following the 3 January 1984 incident; the remainder of the sentence passed on 8 students and pupils following incidents by students and pupils; commuting the sentence of life imprisonment at hard labor to 20 years, which was passed on 6 persons following the events of 3 January 1984; revoking the remainder of the sentence passed on 18 persons in the case of the so-called Islamic

Liberation Party; and revoking the remainder of the sentence passed on 608 persons by the common law courts in the case of the so-called Islamic Tendency Movement. The presidential pardon also covers a group sentenced by the common law courts whose sentences have now been commuted.

Inter-Gulf Affairs

Singaporean Tanker Struck Near Hormuz 6 Dec

JN061237 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1205 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] A news dispatch received a short while ago reports that the oil tanker *Norman Atlantic*, which flies the Singaporean flag, was struck at noon today while near the Strait of Hormuz in the Gulf. It is not yet known whether this attack caused casualties.

Bahrain

Airliner Bombing Suspect Under Questioning

JN051249 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1225 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] Manama, 5 Dec (WAKH)—Informed sources told WAKH today that the girl who tried to commit suicide at Bahrain airport last week has left the hospital and is being interrogated by the proper authorities. The sources noted that the girl is now arrested and in a safe place. They also pointed out that there is full cooperation among the Bahraini, Japanese, and [South] Korean officials on this incident, and that the investigation is taking its proper course.

Transfer to Seoul Possible

[illegible] KYODO in English 0656 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] Manama, Dec. 6 KYODO—A woman suspected of involvement in the loss of a Korean air plane may shortly be expelled from Bahrain and transferred to South Korea, diplomatic sources said Sunday.

The South Korean Government earlier officially asked Bahrain to transfer her to South Korea for further investigations.

The sources said the identity of the woman, carrying a false Japanese passport bearing the name of Mayumi Hachiya, 27, has yet to be established.

The Asian woman, who was transferred from a hospital to a "safe place" Saturday night, remained tightlipped during interrogations by both Japanese and South Korean investigators who arrived earlier Saturday to assist in the probe by Bahrainian authorities, the sources said.

The woman and her male companion, also bearing a forged Japanese passport in the name of Shinichi Hachiya, 69, were suspected of sabotaging the South Korean Boeing 707 that disappeared with 115 people on board last Sunday.

The plane, on a flight from Baghdad to Seoul, vanished near the Thai-Burmese border and is feared lost.

The suspects went to Bahrain after they got off the plane in Abu Dhabi Sunday when it made a scheduled stop on its flight from Baghdad to Seoul.

The two swallowed poison Tuesday in an attempt to commit suicide during interrogations by Bahrainian authorities for possessing false passports. The man died four hours later but the woman survived and was taken to hospital.

In transferring the woman from the hospital to the "safe place," the Bahrainian authorities announced that their investigations have finished.

The diplomatic sources said the Seoul government has asked Bahrain to turn her over to South Korea when her nationality becomes known and Bahrain pledged its cooperation on the matter.

They said Bahrain usually expels a minor crime offender 48 hours after detention if there are no health problems.

Kuwait

Iranian Missile Strikes Floating Island

JN070645 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0640 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Kuwait, 7 Dec (INA)—An Iranian missile struck a floating industrial island in Kuwait this morning.

The Kuwaiti Defense Ministry has confirmed that an Iranian missile was fired at Kuwait this morning.

In a statement today, an official at the Kuwaiti Defense Ministry said that Iran fired a Silkworm missile in the direction of the southern territorial waters of Kuwait at approximately 0753 [0453 GMT] today.

No Casualties Reported

LD070735 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0725 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Kuwait, 7 Dec (KUNA)—It was stated here today that Iran has fired a Silkworm missile toward Kuwait's southern territorial waters.

A source at the Kuwaiti Defense Ministry told KUNA that the missile was fired at 0753 this morning in the direction of Kuwait's southern territorial waters. The projectile failed to strike its target and fell harmlessly into the sea.

Attack Protested to Iran

LD071328 Kuwait KUNA in English 1242 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 7 (KUNA)—Kuwait Monday protested to Iran for its today's Silkworm missile attack on the southern part of the country.

Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir sent messages to regional and international bodies informing them of the details of the latest Iranian aggression.

A Defense Ministry spokesman said in a statement to the *Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that Iran fired a Silkworm missile toward Kuwait's territorial waters at 0753 hours local time today, adding that the missile failed to hit its designated target and fell harmlessly into the sea.*

The Iranian charge d'affaires in Kuwait was also summoned to the Foreign Ministry, where Foreign Undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin informed him of Kuwait's protest on this conspicuous attack.

Al-Shahin also conferred with ambassadors of the permanent member states at the U.N. Security Council for the same purpose.

The *Kuwati News Agency* learnt that the deputy premier and foreign minister informed Secretaries General of the Arab League Chedli Chadli Klibi, Gulf Cooperation Council 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah, Organisation of Islamic Conference Sharifuddin Pirzada and of the U.N. Javier Perez de Cuellar of the new attack launched by Tehran toward Kuwaiti territorial waters.

Group Claims Attacks on American Companies

NC060715 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] In Beirut, an organization calling itself the Organization for the Liberation of Muslims in Kuwait [Munazzamat Tahrir al-Muslimin fi al-Kuwayt] has declared its responsibility for three attacks in Kuwait between May and November. In a statement delivered to a foreign news agency, the organization claimed responsibility for explosions at the American Life and Pan-American Companies, and the explosion at the Kuwaiti oil installations in Al-Ahmadi port on 23 May.

Egyptian Envoy Arrives With Mubarak Message

LD070058 Kuwait KUNA in English 1944 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 6 (KUNA)—Salah al-Hindawi arrived here tonight as Egypt's new ambassador to Kuwait after the two countries resumed full diplomatic relations last month at the end of a nine-year break. Al-Hindawi told reporters at the airport he was carrying a message to his highness the amir from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. The ambassador said President Mubarak instructed him this morning on his mission in Kuwait. He added that he will be working for strengthening relations between Kuwait and Egypt in all areas and recalled that ties between the two Arab countries have been historically firm.

Al-Hindawi is due to present a copy of his credentials to Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad on Monday. Kuwait and 16 other Arab countries severed diplomatic ties with Cairo in 1979 after Egypt signed a peace treaty with Israel. An extraordinary Arab summit in Jordan last month gave the greenlight to Arab countries to individually revive diplomatic ties with Cairo. Nine Arab states did so shortly after the summit.

Presents Credentials

LD071405 Kuwait KUNA in English 1220 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 7 (KUNA)—Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait Salah al-Hindawi said here Monday that he conveyed a verbal message to Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad from Egyptian Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid.

Al-Hindawi was speaking to reporters after presenting copies of his credentials to Shaykh Sabah as the first Egyptian ambassador to Kuwait after the resumption of full diplomatic relatior between the two countries.

After receiving the copies of the credentials, Shaykh Sabah expressed happiness for hoisting anew the Egyptian flag in Kuwait, the ambassador said. He added that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has given him instructions to work for deepening and consolidating bilateral relations on the official level, noting that bilateral ties on the popular level have never been severed or affected at any time.

Saudi Arabia

Iraqi Bombing Said To Cause No Injuries

LD061645 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1624 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] Riyadh, 6 Dec (SPA)—In referring to what was disseminated by some news agencies and the BBC today, to the effect that an Iraqi aircraft had mistakenly bombed a Saudi island 2 days ago and killed and wounded a number of people, as the reports allege, a military source at the Ministry of Defense and Aviation has told SPA: The accident amounted to nothing more than one projectile erroneously falling on a Saudi island last Friday [4 December]. It caused no loss of life or property. The source added that the necessary contacts were initiated between Iraq and Saudi Arabia on the accident, and that two countries considered this matter closed there and then.

Jordan's King Husayn Begins Visit to Kingdom

LD071428 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1338 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Riyadh, 7 Dec (SPA)—His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, arrived in Riyadh at 1600 today on a visit to the Kingdom. Leading those who welcomed his majesty were King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard; and His Royal Highness Prince Salman ibn al-'Aziz, amir of the Riyadh region.

YAR

Prime Minister, Delegation Return From Libya

JN061650 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Standing Committee, and the brother ministers members of the Yemeni side in the Joint Higher Arab Yemeni-Libyan Committee—which concluded its second session held in the Libyan capital from 3 to 5 December—returned to Sanaa yesterday evening. [passage omitted]

The brother prime minister made a statement to *Saba' News Agency* in which he said: We are pleased to express our happiness at visiting the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and at the convening of the second session of the Joint Higher Arab Yemeni-Libyan Committee. We discussed joint cooperation and had a clear and joint view of the overall issues that interest both fraternal countries. Our visit and that of our accompanying delegation were an opportunity to become acquainted with the important achievements in various fields realized by the fraternal Libyan people, under their leadership and revolution. The visit was also an opportunity to meet with Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan 1 September Revolution. He asked us to convey his greetings to brother leader President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, as well as his wishes of further progress and prosperity for our Yemeni people.

Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Standing Committee, and the brother ministers had yesterday departed Tripoli airport at 1700 Tripoli time, 1900 Sanaa time. [passage omitted]

Prior to his departure, Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani made a press statement. He said: I would like to express my pleasure at the results attained during our meetings with the brothers in Libya. These will have a great effect on consolidating, promoting, and enhancing the fraternal links between the Yemeni and Libyan peoples, including the establishment of joint projects. We agreed to establish an investment company between the two countries. Cooperation in various fields was also agreed upon. The brother prime minister asserted that this method of cooperation between the YAR and the Libyan Jamahiriyah is appropriate and good for restoring Arab unity. He pointed out that during the second session of the Joint Higher Arab Yemeni-libyan Committee, which is formed from governments of both fratrernal countries and which convened in Tripoli, it was agreed to enhance cooperation in various fields, as part of efforts to achieve the aspirations of the Arab nation for unity and progress. [passage omitted]

Saddam Husayn Cables Najibullah on Election

JN051229 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1150 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has congratulated Dr Najibullah, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and president of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, on his election as the president of the Republic. The congratulatory cable, which was sent today, reads:

It is our pleasure to send to Your Excellency our heartfelt congratulations. We wish you good health and success, the Afghan people well-being and prosperity, and your country progress.

Tariq 'Aziz Interviewed on Middle East Issues

NC041027 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0643 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Interview with Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, by Voice of Lebanon News Director Maggie Farah in Baghdad on 1 December—recorded]

[Text] [Farah] Mr Minister 'Aziz: Numerous questions may be put to Iraq at this time. These issues appear to be the focus of numerous contacts and the focus of international and regional interest. Let us begin with what concerns Lebanon in this respect. The central theme of Iraqi policy toward Lebanon is a call to all forces to leave and to allow the Lebanese to reach understanding among themselves. Is this policy based on opposition to the parties involved with the Lebanese issue or is it an Iraqi option founded on Lebanon's sovereignty and regional role?

['Aziz] The second part of your question reflects Iraq's true position. In adopting this position on the Lebanese issue, we do not proceed from the basis of reaction or existing and possible future political disputes between one Arab regime and another. As a party occupying Lebanese territory, Israel certainly continues to be considered an enemy. This is part of the well-known Arab position. As for Syria's partisan role in Lebanon, our view has remained the same throughout all the phases of Iraqi-Syrian relations.

President Saddam Husayn has frequently stated, and asserted it directly at the Amman summit in a frank talk with the Arab leaders, that Iraq does not believe at all in the principle of intervention in internal affairs. It neither approves nor encourages the use of armed force in dealing with another Arab country's internal affairs. This is a public and clear position which is based on certain foundations of our Arab policy. For this reason, I affirm what I said at the beginning; namely, that Iraq's position with respect to the situation in Lebanon is a sincere one based on principle, irrespective of the nature of our relations with the Arab parties concerned with the Lebanese issue.

We profoundly believe that despite the current differences among the Lebanese and the political disunity from which Lebanon suffers in numerous respects—a negative phenomenon which must not be disregarded—the factors that would lead to concord among the various Lebanese parties remain strong. I believe that any sincere Lebanese national must necessarily realize that no Lebanese party has benefited from the continued conflicts and differences. For this reason, numerous Lebanese citizens and political leaders undoubtedly are seriously considering achieving some form of agreement over their country's deteriorating situation. We believe that if they were given a real opportunity for dialogue without any outside negative intervention, the Lebanese could achieve a minimum of reconciliation and agreement, despite the difficulties for the sake of safeguarding their country and arresting the rapidly deteriorating situation in Lebanon.

There is a dangerous factor in Lebanon, which is the Iranian presence. This presence has changed much of what is referred to in the Lebanese press as the Lebanese game or the Lebanese balance. This presence is alien to Lebanon and has adverse effects in that it further complicates the situation there. Therefore, when I say that the Lebanese should be left alone to solve their problems, we have to take into account that this presence must be eliminated. This presence is imposed from abroad. It uses armed force, terrorism, and blackmail and seeks assistance from a state which is alien to Lebanon and the Arab homeland.

[Farah] There are many difficulties and obstacles that prevent the achievement of an agreement. Are you optimistic about the removal of this foreign presence from Lebanon?

['Aziz] No one denies that there are several obstacles and difficulties in Lebanon, but we must remain optimistic. Under no circumstances must we consider the Lebanese issue to be a hopeless case. This would be a very dangerous conclusion. If we were to draw such a conclusion, we and the Lebanese people would face frustration and this would lead to further intervention. We stress that it is necessary to rescue Lebanon from its tragedy. If we cannot do this today, we must stress it even with words so that we will have the opportunity tomorrow or after tomorrow, God willing, to help our Lebanese brothers. The Lebanese issue must remain alive.

President Saddam Husayn was eager to discuss the Lebanese issue at the Amman summit, despite Iraq's preoccupation with the Iranian aggression and the serious Iranian threats to the Arab Gulf states, which were the topics of the hour. We informed the Lebanese delegation under His Excellency President Amin al-Jumayyil, that the Iraqi delegation was ready to support the inclusion of the Lebanese problem on the agenda and to hold an in-depth discussion of it.

[Farah] Although Lebanon attended the summit it was, in fact, absent as far as the results were concerned. How do you explain this? Do you consider this as giving Syria a new authorization to have a free hand in Lebanon?

['Aziz] We in Iraq do not interpret it as such. We do not believe in authorizing an Arab country to interfere in the affairs of another Arab country. This does not mean that we want to deprive Syria of its role. If someone were to come and frankly propose that Iraq should be authorized to deal single-handedly in Lebanon, Iraq and Saddam Husayn would be the first to reject this. This applies to the other Arab states as well. We do not believe in this principle [authorizing Syria to deal single-handedly in Lebanon]. I believe that what the summit arrived at was a general resolution that cannot be interpreted in the way you put it. Moreover, no tangible results are expected from it. It is a general resolution that stresses concern to solve the Lebanese question but that does not put forward a working plan to solve this problem.

[Farah] A resolution was issued at the Amman summit calling for the formation of an Arab committee under the auspices of King Husayn to follow up the situation in Lebanon. So far no practical steps have been taken in this direction. In your view, what is the practical meaning of this resolution?

['Aziz] I personally am not aware of a resolution to form a committee. I have no knowledge of such a resolution. The conferees did not decide to form follow-up committees. However, by virtue of his responsibility as chairman of the conference, His Majesty King Husayn will invevitably follow-up the implementation of the summit resolutions. [Farah] Mr Minister, there has always been much talk about Syrian-Iraqi relations and that they are developing positively. The truth, however, has actually been just the opposite. Yet now, namely after the Amman summit, we observe that their propaganda campaigns have ceased. This silence indicates an improvement in their relations. Is the restoration of ties seriously under consideration this time? And where are we now since the summit?

['Aziz] The Amman summit afforded an extremely important opportunity to conduct frank talks among the Arab leaders about the current Arab situation. Arab differences, which represent one of the negative factors in the Arab stand, were among the issues raised at the summit. We must handle these Arab differences with a new method and a new spirit. That was the opinion that prevailed during the Amman summit and we support it.

President Saddam Husayn and the Syrian president held objective and constructive talks in the presence of a number of Arab presidents, kings, and princes. Their discussions revolved around Iraqi-Syrian relations and the Syrian stand on the Iranian aggression against Iraq, as well as the Arab issues that preoccupy the conferees. We considered this positive atmosphere a starting point for a new way to resolve the existing problems in inter-Arab relations. So far, we cannot talk about implementation. We are still living within the atmosphere created by the Amman summit and the time is not yet right to move away from this atmosphere and take practical steps. However, it is not something to be ruled out.

In Amman, Syria appoved the resolutions that were passed with regard to the Iranian aggression against Iraq, the Iranian attacks on Kuwait, and the Iranian criminal actions in Mecca...

[Farah, interrupting] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' also participated in the summit.

['Aziz] He was a member of the delegation led by the Syrian president. This Syrian delegation took part in issuing resolutions. Their approval is a new development which we consider to be positive.

[Farah] You have praised this stand.

['Aziz] When there is a positive stand, we must say it is a positive stand.

[Farah] This means that Syria did not reject the condemnation of Iran.

['Aziz] That is what really happened.

[Farah] Is it true that preparations for reopening the Syrian Embassy [in Baghdad] have begun? When do you think bilateral relations will be restored?

['Aziz] In my answer to the previous question I said that I cannot speak for the moment about any practical or tangible steps. I have no knowledge about any such preparations.

[Farah] Did King Husayn's visit to Baghdad yesterday fall within the Iraqi-Syrian negotiations?

['Aziz] His Majesty King Husayn is always honoring us with his visits to Baghdad to pursue several issues concerning bilateral relations and the Arab situation. His visit yesterday was an extension of the strong relations between Iraq and Jordan and fell within the context of following up the Amman summit resolutions and the atmosphere that we have just talked about. The visit did not entail the discussion of tangible steps. [Farah] The Lebanese have begun to nurture fears that an improvement in Syrian-Iraqi relations may bring about a change in the Iraqi position toward Lebanon. In other words, Iraq may modify its position to accommodate Syrian objectives, as certain political circles are saying. Are such fears justified or should the Lebanese view an improvement in Syrian-Iraqi ties in a different way?

['Aziz] As I said in answer to your first question, our position on the Lebanese problem is totally independent from the state of our relations with Syria, whether these

are good or bad. Iraq is not going to subordinate its position with respect to Lebanon to the state of its ties with Syria. Our ties with Syria were good in 1978-79 and our position on the Lebanese question remained unchanged. I believe that all Lebanese politicans are cognizant of this fact.

Are the Lebanese justified in fearing an amelioration of relations between two Arab countries? I should think that any such apprehensions are unjustified. Any such fears could be nothing but a symptom of the deep sense of frustration and predicament felt in this country. The Lebanese feel that their fellow Arabs have abandoned them. I understand these feelings, but I would not say they are justified. If the climate in which Arab relations are conducted becomes healthier, and I am saying if because this has not happened yet, this could only benefit the Lebanese and not the other way around.

[Farah] Syrian-Iranian ties have been instrumental in promoting friction and strife in Lebanon. Now the two countries seem to be at loggerheads. In your opinion, would the Syrians and the Iranians use Lebanon as an arena to resolve their differences?

['Aziz] In my opinion, not just as Iraq's foreign minister, but as an ordinary Arab citizen, Syrian-Iranian ties are illegitimate, illogical, and doomed. The motives for such ties are negative and temporary. Iran, under the current regime, is an aggressive and expansionist regime which is bent on exporting sedition, division, and religious and sectarian strife.

Knowing this about the Iranian regime, how would you expect the ties between Iran and an Arab country to be based on a good purpose or to be of long duration? These same ties would constitute a threat for the Arab country involved. As you know, the eastern Arab countries are pluralistic, as you call them in Lebanon. Pluralism, as regards religions, sects, and sometimes nationalities, is acceptable in these countries. Our countries, since the Second World War, have been built around a sense of belonging to the land and to a commitment to the nation-state.

The imposition of other divisive and tactical criteria upon a society will have a poisonous effect. Regardless of the duration of Syria's or any other Arab country's relations with Iran, the policies of which are based on these criteria at present, these relations will not acquire the features of permanency because they lack positive and constructive factors.

[Farah] Iraq accuses Iran of obtaining weapons from Israel. Several articles have appeared in the Iraqi press on Israel's arming of Iran in exchange for repatriating Jews in Tehran. Do you believe this is strictly a deal or that it is part of a larger strategy that is even related to the current sectarian and religious war in Lebanon? Is it a big conspiracy against the whole region?

['Aziz] What we say about the arms relationship between Israel and Iran is not an accusation. It is a fact which has been going on for 7 years. At the beginning we were the only ones who said this because we were monitoring the situation and knew that cooperation existed between Israel and the Iranian regime in military and other fields. Reports, facts, and scandals have begun to be exposed with the passage of time, the latest of which, the Irangate scandal, confirmed in no uncertain terms that the Israelis regularly supplied Iran with weapons. When they tempted the Americans into giving arms to Iran, the Americans used the Israeli connection to ship them to that country. This means that the connection existed and was ready to serve the Americans when they showed a desire for this.

The matter is much larger than a mere deal involving the exchange of weapons for Iranian Jews. It is much bigger than this. I support your view that this matter has strategic connotations. Any observer of Israeli politics and of statements by Israeli officials can realize this. Even more important is what is being said and discussed by the indirect decisionmaking centers in Israel—the Israeli research and press centers. There is serious talk inside Israel about the objective alliance between Israel and Iran against the Arabs.

Naturally, there are historic reasons for this. If we go back into history, we find that the Jews sided with the Persians during the invasion and occupation of Babylon. Of course, we are not prisoners of history. We take lessons from history but do not fall prisoner to them. However, facts speak for themselves. Perhaps objective justifications existed for an Israeli-Iranian alliance when the shah was in power in Tehran. Iran was part of the Western alliance and had a close relationshp with the United States. The shah's regime was overthrown and replaced by another regime calling itself the Islamic revolution. That regime's primary aim is the liberation of Jerusalem. The new regime is upstaging us and wants to occupy Baghdad, Karbala', Kuwait, Mecca, and Al-Madinah to achieve its alleged aim of liberating Jerusalem. This Iranian regime is receiving weapons from Israel. Therefore, this cannot be merely a transaction in light of all this.

Precisely as you asked in your question, Iran and Israel have an essential interest in fragmenting Arab countries along sectarian and religious lines. Israel cannot swallow any other Arab country or any part of Arab land, just as Iran cannot swallow any part of Iraq, Kuwait, and any other part unless this part is broken up. These small parts will then search for a foreign cover in neighboring countries, such as Israel and Iran. However, if the Lebanese unite as Lebanese and the Iraqis unite as Iraqis, as they are now, the maximum Iran can do is to open fire on the front. However, the Iraqis will face it with a curtain of fire on the front. There is no internal battle. The battle is on the borders. It will end one day, no matter how long it lasts.

The Iranians and the Israelis sought and are still seeking to transfer the battle to the interior, namely, to the streets, houses, and neighborhoods. They have succeeded in doing so in Lebanon. We now find in Lebanon a perfect arena for this plot and this strategic alliance. There is an apparent competition between the pro-Iranian and pro-Israeli elements in the Lebanese arena, but when we analyze the roots of this apparent competition, we find that the two sides are seeking to partition Lebanon and to maintain the justifications for their interference and presence there, as well as to keep Lebanon unable to achieve unity and rid itself of the illnesses and dangers from which it suffers.

[Farah] You mean that the plot extends from Israel to the Iraq-Iran war?

['Aziz] Certainly. Israel wants to preoccupy Iraq and thereby drain it of its human, material, and military capabilities. Israel attacked the Iraqi nuclear reactor that was built for peaceful purposes. Israel is not against Iran's plans concerning Iraq. Israel is also not against the establishment of small sectarian states and entities in the area, for Israel will then gain a legitimate status. Until the revolution in Iran, or the Khomeyniite regime in Iran, Israel was the sole state founded on a religious basis. It is true that the religion which prevails in Iraq, Syria, and Jordan is Islam, but these states were not founded on religion. They were founded on a national and pan-Arab basis and Lebanon was a prime example of brotherhood and amity among religions and sects.

Until the beginning of the Lebanese crisis and the rise of the Khomeyni regime in Iran, Israel was an anomaly in the area. However, Israel is no longer an anomaly. Others are using religion and utilizing and forging history to achieve regional goals. Israel has found an ideological partner in Iran, which sings the same tune and bases its existence on the same principles. If the Iranians achieve their objectives—and they will never achieve them—of dividing the region into sectarian entities, the area that now has states enjoying scientific, cultural, and economic cooperation will change to an area with ministates fighting over river waters, railroads, oil, and electricty. In this way, the ministate of Israel will be made stronger not only at the present time, but for 100 years to come.

In the Iranian plan, Israel will gain the capability to impose its hegemony on the area for the next 100 years. Therefore, how can there be no strategic alliance? Is there anyone rendering services to Israel more than Iran? Is there anyone giving Israel the chance to impose its control on the area and be superior in the area for another 100 years more than Iran? Even the United States could not give Israel such a privilege. Iran, which calls itself a Muslim state, which wants to liberate Jerusalem, and which considers us failures in performing our duty, has rendered strategic services to Israel that even Israel's strongest ally, the United States, could not render.

[Farah] If we look at Lebanon, we see that the plot seems to have attained its objectives. There are regions in Lebanon that have practically become cantons and semi-cantons, central administrations, or sectarian areas, such as the Al-Shuf and 'Alayh areas, or even the Christian area in Kasrawan and Al-Matn. Does this represent a successful objective realized by the plot concerning Lebanon? Will it have future implications? What is the practical reality of this situation?

['Aziz] The regional conspiracy began in Lebanon. That country was used as a laboratory, so that if the experiment succeeded it would be spread to other Arab countries. The conspiracy began in Lebanon for numerous reasons, including the unnatural circumstances under which Lebanon suffered in the late 1960's and the early 1970's. Another reason has been the prevalent pluralistic nature of the political and demographic situation in Lebanon. However, the major part of the conspiracy was the Iranian aggression against Iraq. Lebanon is the smallest country in the Arab Mashriq and by itself is not capable of bringing a major regional conspiracy to fruition. It has been used as a laboratory. This is certainly so.

The success of the Iranian conspiracy depended upon the fragmentation of Iraq, and later Syria and the other Arab Mashriq countries. At such a time, the conspiracy would reveal its full dimensions in Lebanon. It is for this reason that you find a situation such as you have described in Lebanon. A situation exists in which there are unofficially proclaimed sectarian statelets. An official proclamation had been awaiting the success of Khomeyniism's scheme against Iraq. I believe—and here I am speaking more as a political thinker than as a politician—that the situation in Lebanon will remain as it is as long as Khomeyniism is incapable of attaining its objectives in Iraq, the other Arab Mashriq countries, and the Gulf.

The advocates of sectarian entities will not dare to openly declare their program. Hence, when we announce that the primary pan-Arab objective at this stage is to end the war and attain peace, it does not mean, as some people allege, that we underestimate other conflicts and issues. Some people stated that giving priority at the Amman summit to the discussion of the Iraq-Iran war would be at the expense of the Arab-Zionist struggle. This is a narrow viewpoint, or a mistaken one at the very least. The cessation of the Iraq-Iran war will signify an arresting of the greater part of the scheme against the entire Arab nation.

We admit that we do not have an historical, decades- or centuries-long conflict with the Iranian people. However, we have a conflict with a current Iranian scheme designed to destroy and fragment our countries. It is imperative for us to put an end to this scheme. We are calling for a peaceful end to this scheme. We are fighting because there has been aggression and because Iran insists on war. Our program, however, is one of peace.

We have accepted Resolution 598 which safeguards Iraq's and Iran's sovereignty and rights, that is, if Iran desires to remain a state within its own boundaries and without external ambitions.

Ending the war and establishing a just peace, which would signify an abandonment of the program of Iranian expansionism against Iraq, the largest Arab Mashriq country, would also signify a severing of the vital blood vessels which constantly feed the sectarian program in Lebanon. How would we confront this issue later on? This is both a Lebanese and an Arab concern. We must confront it with awareness and with the lessons we have learned from the experiences of the past stage, namely, that withdrawal into sectarian entities and cantons is an impossible option from which no one benefits.

When the Christian, and similarly a Muslim of any denomination, thinks he can protect himself by withdrawing into a canton, he will discover that he has lost. All are losers in Lebanon now. There are no winners, except some individuals who benefit and profit by slogans. They are few, anyway. The majority of the Christian and Muslim Lebanese people are losers. Benefit can be obtained by returning to national ties and abandoning the narrow ties which have benefited neither the individual nor society. [Farah] At this point, we must ask how you interpret the Syrian position, which agrees with Iran with respect to the Lebanese issues, and which opposes Lebanese legitimacy and does not allow the legitimate Lebanese institutions to carry out their functions. Is it possible to regard Syria as also being involved in the conspiracy, for instance?

['Aziz] Let us use the language of positive and constructive dialogue that originated at the Amman summit. Let us use this language of objective description of positions and exclude the accusations and the language that used to be adopted in the broadcast media and [word indistinct]. Nevertheless—and this is an objective analysis on which I have already touched in answering an earlier question—we do not find constructive elements in the Syrian-Iranian relationship, neither in its attitude toward Iraq nor in its implications and outcome in Lebanon. On the contrary, we see many mistakes and numerous negative results.

For this reason, rectifying the general Arab situation, as well as the Lebanese situation, requires that there be no partnership between an Arab party and Iran, neither with regard to Iraq, nor with regard to Lebanon. Lebanon must be left alone, not out of disregard for it, but in appreciation for its sovereignty. We must appreciate the fact that Lebanon is an Arab country; indeed, it must be Arab, it must be a living and dynamic part of the Arab nation. Nevertheless, it remains an independent state. For instance, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Algeria all declare they are Arab and contribute to the extent possible. None of these countries, however, would accept that another Arab should come and intervene in their internal affairs, even if they face difficulties.

Ever since our countries were established in this modern era, all of us, without exception, have encountered difficulties. In some of our countries there have been civil wars. Yemen, for instance, has witnessed disputes, some of which threatened its domestic security. Still, there was no justification for another Arab party to come and impose its will—or services, if we use this term—in a manner surpassing logical limits. I believe that Lebanon is able to remedy its internal problems by itself with some Arab assistance, but not with Arab intervention. Indeed, this assistance must not be allowed to reach such a stage. The most dangerous factor here is a partnership or alliance with elements that are foreign to the Lebanese state.

We also criticize, and must indeed strongly criticize, any Lebanese tendency to resort to Israel or to seek its cooperation on the pretext that it is faced by an Arab threat and other similar allegations that have been made at one time. To the same extent and by the same pan-Arab principle, we must confront the foreign Iranian presence in Lebanon, which has hostile, expansionist, and partitionist objectives in Lebanon.

[Farah] It is being said that Iraq has developed alliances and enmities on the Lebanese scene. What is Iraq's position regarding these alliances? Does it support the de facto political forces or the legitimate authority?

['Aziz] To begin with, we respect the legitimate authority, regardless of its political orientation. Our dealings with the legitimate Lebanese authority does not proceed from our assessment of its internal Lebanese political description. His Excellency President Amin al-Jumayyil is currently president of Lebanon. The presidential institutions are those of the Lebanese presidency. We deal with them with respect, appreciation, and amity in their aforementioned capacity. This does not specifically mean that the relationship springs from our relationship with the Phalangist Party to which President al-Jumayyil used to belong.

We make no secret of the fact that we maintain cordial relations with all. However, the relationship [with President Amin al-Jumayyil] is not derived from Iraq's relationship with the Phalangist Party. Rather, it is a relationship between Iraq as an Arab country and Lebanon as another Arab country. We have respect for the established Lebanese authority and this applies to the Lebanese Prime Ministry as well. When we speak about the legitimate established authority in Lebanon, we are referring to all the branches of this authority: The Parliament, the Prime Ministry, the presidency, and the Army.

We believe that a weakening of these institutions would necessarily debilitate Lebanon. This is a belief which we hold irrespective of how we view one political line or another. Do we have enemies or friends in Lebanon? I tell you plainly that all the Lebanese are brothers of the

Iraqis and we want to be friends with all of them. We want to discuss matters with them, to exchange views, to agree or disagree, but to remain brothers.

Nevertheless, this does not apply to those who represent Iran in Lebanon. Iran is an aggressor, a country that harbors ambitions regarding Iraq. Whoever supports Iran in Lebanon can be anything but a friend. Yet, if you ask me if I would conduct an objective dialogue with a Lebanese politician who is a friend of the Syrians, I would give you a resounding yes for an answer. Yes, I would not view the position of a Lebanese politician who is friendly to Syria as abnormal. Syria is an Arab country after all, despite any differences between us. A Lebanese politician is fully entitled to side with or against the Syrians, and I would still be ready to enter into a dialogue with him.

However, a person who sides with Iran is taking a very different stand. Iran is waging a war of aggression against Iraq. Similarly, I can find no common ground with anyone who says: I am with Israel. Israel is an aggressor; it occupies Arab territories and threatens Lebanon. There is no common ground between me and an Israeli ally, but I can find room to give and take and I can talk with Lebanese politicians who could differ on the solution to the Lebanese problem or on the political reforms in the country. These are debatable issues and we are ready to debate them with all those who are loyal to Lebanon and the Arabs, but not with those who are loyal to Iran or other foreign elements.

[Farah] The Lebanese diplomatic representation to Iraq is on the level of ambassador, while Iraq is only represented by a charge d'affaires in Lebanon. Are there any political reasons for such a situation or is it due to Iraq's current conditions?

[*Aziz] There are no political reasons for the level of the Iraqi representation in Lebanon. The reasons are actually related to security, not to our current conditions. Yes, we are in a state of war, but we maintain ambassadors in scores of countries throughout the world. As you know, our embassy in Beirut has been repeatedly attacked. In the most recent of these attacks, the embassy was blown up and the ambassador killed, along with many embassy employees.

To maintain a diplomatic mission that is headed by an ambassador, it should be relatively large. A mission under a charge d'affaires can be appropriately smaller, which also means that fewer people will be endangered. We hope that the day will come when we raise the level of our representation in Lebanon to that of ambassador and maintain a diplomatic mission of a size commensurate to its tasks in a brotherly Arab country. Anyway, regardless of the level of representation in Beirut, the Iraqi charge d'affaires is meeting his duties in full. We always lend him our ears, provide him with the necessary instructions, and follow up his work. He is representing us satisfactorily.

[Farah] We always call him Mr Ambassador and he corrects us on this.

[*Aziz] You can call him that. He is actually representing his country in Lebanon.

[Farah] In the past, economic relations between Lebanon and Iraq were at a higher level. Now they have ebbed, despite Lebanon's need of [word indistinct] in the present circumstances. Are the reasons for this cooling in the economic relations Lebanese or Iraqi?

[*Aziz] I think that the main reason for the drop in the level of the economic relations is the Lebanese situation. There is also a very important and practical reason: Syria's closure of its border with Iraq. Trade between Iraq and Lebanon used to take place over land, not by sea. It is neither logical nor practical to conduct trade by sea, especially in the wake of the Iranian aggression against Iraq and the closure of Iraqi ports. There are practical reasons pertaining to the Lebanese situation and to Syria's decision to close its border with Iraq.

A situation has developed in the past few years—not immediately after the start of the war, but in recent years. Iraq's trading methods have changed from those in the past: We have begun to sign long-term agreements. For example, we purchase goods from a state and pay part of the value of these goods this year, another part next year, and so forth, as part of a long-term agreement. Can the Lebanese economy accommodate such a system? It seems to me that it cannot. It only seems to me so, I cannot say for sure. Because of Lebanon's difficult economic situation, Lebanese businessmen are inclined to strike direct deals. We have only extremely limited amounts of this latter type of trade.

[Farah] The Arab summit did not grant Lebanon any economic or financial assistance. Wasn't this a negative outcome for Lebanon? Wasn't it at least possible to help it financially, if not politically too?

[*Aziz] I cannot make a final judgment regarding this issue. As far as I know, the Lebanese delegation raised the issue of support for the Lebanese pound at the summit conference. We did not directly participate in the debate; we were not invited to take part because the subject was not debated in a plenary session, but only in bilateral meetings. Therefore, I do not know the details. What I heard from some Arab parties, though, is that they have another view on how to support the Lebanese pound, different from the one raised by the Lebanese delegation. Do we classify this as a negative stand? I don't think so. There is genuine sympathy for and preoccupation with the situation in Lebanon. I think that many Arab states would like to do something, but they cannot find the practical and available means because of a lack of agreement among the Lebanese legitimate institutions and branches.

[Farah] As you know, Iraq maintains a positive position on Lebanon. It also has an ally, the PLO, which maintains a military and security presence in Lebanon. How do you see the exemplary Lebanese-Palestinian relations at this time?

['Aziz] We must deal with the Palestinian phenomenon as it is. The Palestinian people's land is occupied and the majority of the Palestinian people live outside Palestine. Therefore, it is only natural that Palestinians are present in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt, Kuwait, and other Arab states. This is the reality. It is a phenomenon created from the first and second Israeli occupations, as well as other occupations. This people must have political representation. It is their right. They established the PLO, which since the 1974 Rabat summit conference has been considered the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. This is natural; every people must have their political representation. How can we as Arab states regulate our relations with the PLO?

President Saddam Husayn made an official proposal at the Amman summit which he had made only indirectly in the past: noninterference in internal affairs and mutual respect. I think that this principle must govern the relations between the PLO and Lebanon and between the PLO and Iraq. Just as we ask the Palestinians not to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs, we as Iraqis also must not interfere in its internal affairs.

I do not approve of—and this is not only my personal view but that of the Iraqi revolution as well, and the brother Palestinians know this—we do not approve of Palestinian practices in Lebanon that represent an intervention in Lebanese internal affairs. However, we believe that the Palestinian presence in Lebanon is natural, as it is the outcome of the general situation in the Arab homeland. Therefore, we have to organize relations on this basis, that is, non-intervention and mutual respect.

At the same time, all the Arab countries, each country according to its capabilities and (?role), must provide assistance to the Palestinian people. The Palestinian people cannot solve their problems alone. Algeria, for example, a country with a larger population than the Palestinians, which occupies a far greater area than Palestine, asked for political, military, media, and financial support from the Arabs when it was struggling for its independence. It was given massive assistance throughout the 7-year Algerian revolution. So how can the Palestinians continue their struggle, regardless of the means of this struggle and even with the simplest political means, if we Arabs do not give them assistance, each country according to its capabilities, including Lebanon.

I do not agree with some Lebanese who say we have nothing to do with the Palestinian people. I do not share this view. The fact is that the Lebanese have something to do with them, whether they like it or not. The geopolitical situation of Lebanon makes its involvement with the Palestinian cause inevitable. However, it has been President Saddam Husayn's opinion ever since the seventies that we should not burden Lebanon with more than it can handle as far as the Palestinian issue is concerned. Lebanon is a small country in terms of area, population, and capabilities, so it should not be burdened with the Palestinian issue to the same extent as Egypt, Iraq, or Syria. This would be unfair and unbalanced. I believe that what took place in the seventies brought about an imbalance and that in turn reflected negatively on the Lebanese situation. However, as I said when talking about inter-Arab relations, we must not be prisoners of the past. We must search for solutions to our problems in the present and look forward to the future.

[Farah] In the wake of the Amman summit, Iran threatened to launch an offensive against Iraq. How credible do you think this threat is and how capable is Iran militarily of attacking the Iraqi battlefront?

['Aziz] Iranian talk about launching a new aggression against Iraq is serious. The Iranians are making practical preparations to carry out a new aggression. These preparations have been going on for months, but they were stepped up after the Amman summit. The Iranian regime was greatly shocked by the results of the summit. It seems to me that it was Iranian public opinion that was very much affected by the outcome of the summit. The Iranian people felt that their government had put them in a position of antagonism toward the entire Arab homeland, as expressed at the Amman sunimit. This led the Iranian regime to react nervously and hysterically to the summit, its recommendations, and those who took part in it without exception. The Iranians then flagrantly started amassing troops in preparation for aggression. The Iranian regime is using all its resources to prepare for this aggression.

As for Iran's ability to achieve its objectives, the war is not new. Every year the Iranians talk about a final and decisive offensive. We have a long list of those decisive and final Iranian onslaughts. That was their claim, but the result has always been failure. Despite the gains the Iranians have made—occupying an area here or there, relatively minor things—the Iranian attacks have ended in utter failure and heavy casualties. In each and every act of aggression they have committed, the Iranians have had tens of thousands of men, even more, either killed or wounded, not to mention the large-scale destruction of their equipment.

Despite all this, the Iranian regime insists on continuing the war and continuing its aggression. In my view, the Iranian regime is in an awkward position as a result of the ongoing failure of the war and the international pressure exerted on it to accept Resolution 598. The most recent critical situation it has faced was the outcome of the Amman summit. Its aggression against

Kuwait and its criminal acts against Saudi Arabia were meant to intimidate the Arabs and dissuade them from backing Iraq, thus isolating Iraq and forcing it into a corner.

This aggressive action has led to greater solidarity with Iraq and to collective Arab solidarity against Iranian aggression. The effect of this was to make the situation of the Iranians even more critical. As usual, this failing and aggressive regime is doing what the poet says, namely, pouring oil on the flames. Instead of showing a willingness for peace and good neighborliness with the Arabs to get itself out of its difficulties, it resorts to more aggression.

Thus it is now seriously preparing for a massive attack, under the delusion that it can change the military equation and [word indistinct]. I emphasize the word delusion, because the Iranian regime will greatly regret choosing the mistaken course of aggression. It would do better to deal with Resolution 598 and the Amman summit resolutions positively, honestly, and seriously. If it resorts to aggression, it will only be defeated and destroyed. I assure you, and this is not for propaganda... [Aziz changes thought] I say we are absolutely sure of our military preparedness.

There is a deep conviction among the Iraqi people and Armed Forces that Iran is an aggressor and that it is a greedy, malevolent, and criminal country which wants to take the lives of Iraqi children, women, and young men and destroy Iraq. The Iraqi people, who are vigilant and have resources and active leaders, are capable of standing up to the barbarism of a backward regime. Aggression by this regime cannot be justified in terms of the vital and legitimate interests of the Iranian people. Therefore, it cannot achieve victory by aggression. Victory will be for Iraq, God willing, because Iraq is in the right.

Iraq is defending its territory and sovereignty and is sincerely acting for peace. Our military capabilities are stronger now than they were in the past. This is an important fact. Through its continued aggression and insistence on continuing the war, Iran thinks it can weaken Iraq, both morally and financially. In fact, Iran's insistence on carrying on the war increases our moral and financial power. In 1986 Iraq was stronger than it was in 1975. This year, 1987, Iraq is stronger than it was last year. It is stronger in terms of numbers, military equipment, training, and in terms of determination to repel attacks and make the Iranians understand they have no choice but to accept peace as specified by Resolution 598.

[Farah] After the Arab summit, the results of which were in Iraq's favor, to what extent can these results and resolutions be utilized in getting the UN Security Council to issue a condemnation of Iran if it persists in rejecting the UN Security Council resolution? And is the international community, including the Soviet Union, ready for such a condemnation?

[Aziz] After the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 598, Iran played the game of procrastination, deception, and maneuver. In the past, Iran was quick to reject Security Council resolutions. It never took the Iranian delegate to the United Nations more than 15 minutes to announce his rejection of a resolution. The situation is different with Resolution 598. First, it is binding, according to the UN Charter. Second, it threatens sanctions against the party which does not comply with it.

The Iranians know this and know what the implications would be if a resolution were passed imposing sanctions on them. They know the political implications as well as the [word indistinct]. Therefore, they have tried to beat around the bush. They give irrelevant interpretations of the resolution. They make statements in this capital and that capital. They run from country to country, making threats that reflect their contradictory and confused ideas. They think this game confuses the UN Security Council and divides its members, particularly the permanent ones, and so on.

This is a sort of Iranian illusion and a cheap Iranian game. The Iranians are used to playing games, but this is a cheap method that will eventually be exposed. Well, this game has been going on for 4 months. Now it has come closer to being discovered or exposed than before. The room for Iranian maneuver has actually been reduced from what it was 1, 2, or 3 months ago. This is because people have heard the various flimsy arguments, allegations, and interpretations of Resolution 598. They have discussed them and expressed their views on them. Therefore, Iran has been left with little room for maneuver. Sooner or later the Security Council will have to reach a clear and definite conclusion that Iran is not ready to accept the resolution. Then there will be no alternative to discussing the next step.

What has the position of the permanent member states of the UN Security Council been until now, according to the reports we receive and what is said in the media? The United States, Britain, and France, the three Western countries, have been ready all along, and still are ready, to discuss the sanctions resolution. The Soviet Union has been saying in its statements that the time has not come yet to discuss this issue and the UN secretary general should be given more time for consultations.

In the recent short period—and I emphasize the word short because some positions appear and interact quickly... [Aziz changes thought] Today I heard a statement by a Soviet spokesman in which he said—or from which it is possible to understand—that the Soviet Union is readier now than it was before to discuss this issue, but the Soviet Union has its own views on the arms ban issue. It should be effective, all must participate in it, and

there must be close international supervision. At any rate, this shift in the way the Soviet Union is expressing itself should be taken note of. It is a positive shift, in my view. A summit meeting will be held in the next few days between Reagan and Gorbachev. This subject will be discussed. We hope that the five permanent members of the Security Council will reach a level of understanding and agreement on this issue as soon as possible. We hope so.

[Farah] There have recently been statements criticizing the Soviet Union's position on this issue. Are your remarks about the Soviet Union based on its position in the Security Council or are you referring to bilateral relations...

['Aziz, interrupting] No, they have nothing to do with our bilateral relations with the Soviet Union, which are very good in other fields. We have no complaint about them. I have reaffirmed this on numerous occasions. We have been telling our Soviet frields, right up to the most recent diplomatic contact between us, that we are not convinced about the postponement of discussion on the sanctions resolution. We have told them that you must soon conclude that Iran is not abiding by the Security Council resolution and it is necessary, therefore, to adopt the sanctions resolution. They were inclined toward further delay.

The criticism was within this context and it must not be misinterpreted. It was a criticism of the Soviet Union's procrastination, or of its hesitant position, to describe it in other words. The latest Soviet statement, which was issued today, and which I was reading a few minutes before my meeting with you, deserves further attention. Does it express a less reserved Soviet position? If the Soviet Union is moving in this direction, then this is a positive development which we must follow up.

[Farah] China, as an international power, is trying to play a certain role in the Gulf war. China's position has become somewhat negative lately, given it has been supplying arms to Iran. Have you made any efforts to alter the Chinese position? Is the Chinese position still the same and do you think it is a matter of arms deals only?

['Aziz] Iraq and a number of Arab countries have been talking to the Chinese for some time about the reports that China is providing arms to Iran. We raised this topic several times in Beijing, both in the course of normal bilateral consultations and during the visits of the delegations representing the seven-member Arab Committee. At first the Chinese absolutely denied that they had supplied Iran with arms. They they gradually admitted that Chinese-made arms had reached Iran through channels they know nothing about. At any rate, facts are facts. Regardless of motives and intentions, the fact is that Chinese-made weapons are available to the Iranians and not in small quantities. The missiles fired at Kuwait were Chinese. No one can deny this.

However, China has not obstructed Resolution 598. When the other four UN Security Council permanent members agreed to this resolution, China followed suit. China is now saying, in the UN Security Council deliberations, that if the other four members agree to discuss and pass a resolution on sanctions, it will do the same. We have nothing to complain about in this regard. Nonetheless, we have to keep our eyes open with respect to military cooperation, whether direct or indirect, between Iran and China, because it is results that count. The Chinese must realize that the availability of Chinese-made weapons to Iran is something that not only displeases the Arabs, but also upsets them and leads them to be cautious in their dealings with China. This will affect the traditionally cordial relations between China and all the Arabs, because the matter does not involve Iraq or Kuwait alone, but Arab security as a whole.

[Farah] Iraq was originally opposed to any settlement of the Middle East issue with Israel. It was, and still is, one of the main parties to the Arab rejectionist front, as we know. We notice that of late Iraq has adopted a different position, looking relatively positively on the suggested formulas for a settlement, particularly the proposal of an international conference. Does this development in the Iraqi position arise from the circumstances of the war or does it reflect a genuine conviction?

['Aziz] Iraq is still committed to the general framework approved at the Baghdad summit. The Baghdad summit resolutions allow countries to explore prospects for a peaceful Mideast settlement. Therefore Iraq's present position is not new nor has it been imposed by the circumstances of the war because the Baghdad summit was held in 1978.

Our position can be defined as follows: We support the PLO. If the PLO wants to explore prospects for a peaceful settlement, we will back it. If that organization makes another choice, we will not stand in its way, even if we disapprove. This is because we oppose custodianship being imposed on anyone merely because we advocate pan-Arabism. I am a pan-Arab, but I express this feeling by helping others and not by imposing custodianship on them. The PLO has made its choice. It is the party directly responsible for this issue. Thus, I am dutybound to support it and not to oppose it in its choice.

[Farah] At the end of this interview, Mr 'Aziz, could we conclude it with a comment on the general situation in Lebanon now and in the near future?

['Aziz] In fact, what I would like to do is express my feelings of love for the Lebanese brothers and my sincere desire for Lebanon to emerge from the current situation into one of peace, security, and national unity. We all hope this will be achieved. It is not a mere hope but a goal that we must actively pursue. We—Lebanese or

Arabs—must not abandon this goal or give way to frustration or desperation. We must revive and strengthen our determination and be optimistic.

[Farah] Thank you.

'Aziz Leaves for U.S. on 'Working Visit'

JN051158 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1138 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Dec (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today left for the United States on a short working visit. The deputy prime minister and foreign minister will hold talks with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598.

National Front Urges Implementation of 598

JN041858 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] The General Secretariat of the Progressive National and Patriotic Front [in Iraq] has urged revolutionary parties, progressive political forces, and political, intellectual, social, and economic personalities to swiftly implement Security Council Resolution 598 according to its sequence and without changing or playing with its articles. In a message addressed to these parties, forces, and personalities, Comrade Hasan 'Ali, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command and secretary general of the Progressive National and Patriotic Front, described the Security Council resolution as the only natural way to end the war and achieve peace. He affirmed that the struggle of these forces, parties, and personalities will reinforce international efforts aimed at ending the war and will contribute to regaining security, stability, and peace in this vital part of the world.

The General Secretariat noted the real dangers resulting from the Iranian regime's disregard of the international will for peace and its procrastination in implementing Security Council Resolution 598, as well as the effect of this situation on security, peace, and stability in the Arabian Gulf and in the world.

The secretary general of the Front called on these forces, parties, and personalities to urge the UN secretary general to hasten implementation of the full resolution in accordance with the sequence of its articles.

Minister Discusses Oil Production, Pipelines

JN062049 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1712 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Dec (INA)—Iraqi Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim has said that oil production and the exploitation of natural and liquid gas have increased to unprecedented levels in the past 6 months. This came when the Iraqi National Assembly hosted the oil minister in a session held under Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and Assembly speaker, with the aim of answering two questions posed by an Assembly member. The questions deal with the ministry's plan regarding the oil by-products industry, as well as the stages attained in the two projects to expand pumping capacity in the second phase of transporting oil across Saudi and Turkish territories.

The oil minister said the increase in liquid gas production was 24.3 percent more than before while the capacity to purify oil increased by 10 percent at the beginning of this year. He added that 2 months ago the Oil Ministry began a large operation to export grease to world markets after establishing a grease refinery whose production capacity totals 250,000 tonnes a year, including 200,000 tonnes for export. He added that a factory for producing the item phorphoral [name as received], which is important for producing paint, is being built. Another project for gas isolation stations is also endorsed.

The minister added that petroleum-based industries have seen a remarkable development and that exports in these industries increased by 17 percent in October compared with exports in October last year. He also said that the capacity for the liquidation of paint, grease, and gas has increased by 115 percent, 19 percent, and 68 percent respectively. He added that the production of liquid and dry gas, sulphur, and natural benzene has increased by 82 percent, 62 percent, 86 percent, and 104 percent respectively.

Regarding the two projects for increasing the capacity of the second stage of the two pipelines across Saudi and Turkish territories, the oil minister said: The second phase of the Iraqi-Turkish pipeline was implemented and it has been operating comercially since 27 July. After implementing the project, the pumping capacity reached 1.5 million barrels a day. The Iraqi pipeline across Saudi territory is expected to be implemented within 24 months and will be ready for operation on 19 September 1989.

The oil minister also said the Ministry took several measures to increase oil production to meet the new required export quantities which have exceeded 2 million barrels a day. He added that Iraq produced 2,750,00 barrels a day throughout October compared to 1,828,000 barrels a day last year.

Discovery of New Oil Fields Announced

JN061611 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] It was announced today that new oil fields have been discovered in northern, central, and southern Iraq. In a statement to INA, the director general of the Iraqi Oil Exploration Company said the company's equipment has surveyed approximately 300,000 km of seismological survey lines for exploration purposes, including areas surveyed for the first time. Other discovered oil fields were also surveyed to accurately assess them.

The company's director general added that intensive exploration work has resulted in tangible additions to oil reserves. Confirmed oil reserves in Iraq reach 100 billion barrels and the semi-confirmed reserves reach more than 40 billion barrels. He added that intensive exploration is continuing in new areas to explore new fields with high qualities by carrying out intensive drilling operations of approximately 6,000 meters deep in various areas in Iraq.

Japan To Help Build Communications Station

JN062036 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1540 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 6 Dec (INA)—Iraq and the Japanese Somotomo Company have signed a contract to implement the ground station project to be linked with Arabsat. The implementation of the contract, which was signed for Iraq by Muhammad Hamzah, minister of transportation and communications, and for the Japanese company by its representative in Baghdad, will cost 5,506,000 Iraqi dinars.

The station, which will be built within 14 months, consists of an antenna with a diameter of 11 meters and devices for transmitting and receiving all kinds of telephone and telex communications and direct television programs between Iraq and the Arab countries, which have ground stations linked with Arabsat. The ground station will provide 486 telephone channels to meet communications needs until the year 2000. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Operations

Tanker Reportedly Hit

NC031814 Nicosia Domestic Service in Greek 1730 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] Yesterday Iraqi planes hit the 250,000-ton tanker *Anax*, which is registered in Cyprus, as it was on its way to Iran's Khark Island. According to reports from Bahrain, the vessel suffered only minor damage.

'Large Maritime Target' Struck

JN041426 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1412 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Statement by military spokesman dated 4 December]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. As long as Iran's criminal rulers insist on continuing war and aggression against our country, the Iraqi hammers of justice will continue to smash their empty heads and destroy their oil supplies. At 1210 [0910 GMT] today, our daring aircraft launched a successful raid on a large maritime target near the Iranian coast, scoring an accurate, effective blow. This is the second target hit by the bombs of our brave eagles today. After carrying out their mission, our aircraft returned safely to base, in God's care and protection.

[Dated] 4 December 1987

Iranian Losses Detailed

JN041511 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Dec (INA)—The Iraqi Armed Forces killed and wounded 18 Iranian soldiers before 1600 [1300 GMT] today. INA has learned that the Iraqi forces also destroyed eight infantry positions, one machinegun emplacement, three observation posts, two shovels, and one anti-aircraft machinegun, blew up five ammunition dumps, and pounded an enemy engineering effort and halted its work.

Communique No 2,939

JN041801 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1724 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Dec (INA)—The Iraqi forces have continued to inflict more losses on the Iranian forces' personnel, military hardware, and weapons through their activities in the areas of operation last night and today. Military Communique No 2,939 issued here today said that 18 Iranian soldiers were killed or wounded, 9 infantry positions and three observation posts were destroyed, and 5 ammunition dumps were blown up in the various areas of operation. The communique noted that two shovels were destroyed in the VII Army Corps sector and another shovel was damaged in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

The following is the text of the military communique:

Communique No 2,939 issued by the Armed Forces General Command.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces affirm their overwhelming superiority over our renegade enemies through their heroic activities. Our forces inflicted the following losses on the vile aggressors last night and today:

1. Our heroic Air Force continues to inflict violent blows upon the important economic pillars of aggression and to sever the oil supplies employed by the ruling gang in Tehran to serve its evil objectives and Zionist goals. Today, our Air Force flew these two missions:

a. At 0710 [0410 GMT] today, our daring hawks hunted down a large maritime target near the Iranian coast, scoring an accurate, effective blow.

b. At 1210 today, our planes launched a successful raid on a large maritime target near the Iranian coast, dealing an accurate, effective blow.

After completing these two missions, our planes returned safely to the homeland, in God's care and protection.

2. In the I Army Corps northern sector, eight enemy soldiers were killed and wounded and one ammunition dump was blown up.

3. In the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah, one infantry position was destroyed, enemy engineering work was halted, and one scoundrel was killed.

4. In the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan, three observation posts, one machinegun emplacement, and two infantry positions were destroyed, with their occupants killed and wounded, and one shovel was damaged.

5. In the V Army Corps northern sector, nine scoundrels were killed, four infantry positions and one anti-aircraft machinegun were destroyed, with their crews killed, and one vehicle was set ablaze.

6. In the VI Army Corps sector east of Tigris, enemy engineering work was pounded and halted and two infantry positions were destroyed.

7. In the VII Army Corps sector, four ammunition dumps were blown up and two shovels destroyed.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 4 December 1987

More on Iranian Losses

JN051327 Baghdad INA in English 1318 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 5, INA—An Iraqi military spokesman said that Iranian enemy losses today included killing four troops, setting ablaze and destroying four vehicles, two infantry bunkers, an observation post and a heavy machinegun. In a statement to INA, the spokesman said the losses also included damaging a shovel and blowing up three ammunition dumps.

Communique No 2,940

JN051720 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Communique No. 2,940 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 5 December]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious Armed Forces continued to carry out their combat activities last night and today as follows:

1. One enemy soldier was killed and two infantry positions and one observation post were destroyed in the I Army Corps northern sector.

2. In the III Army Corps east of Al-Basrah, two vehicles were set ablaze and destroyed, one shovel [preceding word in English] was damaged, one single-barreled machinegun was destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up.

3. Two scoundrels were killed and one enemy observation post was destroyed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan. One ammunition dump was blown up in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

4. One aggressor was killed, two vehicles were set ablaze and destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up in the VII Army Corps sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 5 December 1987

Iranian Speedboat Attack Noted

JN060830 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0800 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] Iranian speedboats attacked a Danish oil tanker near Dubayy port this morning. The oil tanker *(Thula Berchit)* was hit 24 kms south of Dubayy port after missile projectiles were fired at it, setting it ablaze and wounding two of its crew.

Spokesman on Iranian Losses

JN061557 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1446 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Dec (INA)—The Iraqi Armed Forces inflicted on the Iranian forces new losses in personnel, weapons, and positions on the front today. In a statement to INA, a military spokesman said Iraqi forces in the operation sector east of Al-Basrah killed two enemy personnel, wounded three, and destroyed one infantry position. One machinegun emplacement and one observation post were destroyed and four enemy personnel were killed in the operation sector east of Maysan. Five infantry positions were also destroyed in the Special I Army Corps sector.

The spokesman added that the men of the VII Army Corps destroyed five infantry positions, one gun emplacement, one shovel [preceding word in English], one single-barreled machinegun, and one observation post. Other Iraqi units in the northern operations sector killed two enemy personnel and destroyed one observation post.

Saudi Island Mistakenly Bombed

JN061647 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Dec (INA)—Lieutenant General Hamid Sha'ban, commander of the Iraqi Air Force and Defense Force, has announced that a shell from an Iraqi plane fell on the Saudi Island of Arabi by mistake the day before yesterday. In a statement to INA this evening, the commander said that while Iraqi planes were carrying out their duties over the Arabian Gulf waters on 4 December, a navigational error took place and one of the planes dropped a shell on Arabi Island at 1329 [1029 GMT] on 4 December.

Sha'ban added that such technical mistakes are possible. He said that we express our deep regret to our brothers in Saudi Arabia who maintain very close ties with the Iraqi people on the basis of the principles of righteous Islam, pan-Arab brotherhood, and joint actions for the sake of our glorious Arab nation and the protection of its sanctities.

Communique No 2,941

JN061724 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Communique No 2,941 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 6 December]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious forces continued their combat activities in the operation sectors last night and today as follows:

1. Five infantry positions were destroyed in the Special I Army Corps sector—Allahu Akbar Forces.

2. Two scoundrels were killed, three others were wounded, and one infantry position was destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

3. One machinegun emplacement and one observation post were destroyed and four personnel were killed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

4. Two enemy personel were killed and one observation post was destroyed in the V Army Corps northern sector.

5. Five infantry positions, one gun emplacement, one shovel [preceding word in English], one single-barrel machinegun, and one observation post were destroyed and their occupants were killed on the VII Army Corps front.

6. A number of Iranian soldiers took refuge with our forward units on the combat fronts. They were evacuated safely to the rear.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 6 December 1987

Iranian Opposition Forces' Operations Noted

JN041457 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Dec (INA)—The fighters of the Iranian National Liberation Army [INLA] have launched a violent attack on a number of the Iranian regime's positions and bases in the Kushk area southwest of Ahvaz. The Mojahed Radio, the organ of the Iranian Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, said in a report monitored here today that 223 Iranian soldiers were killed or wounded and 29 others captured in this attack, which began on the morning of 2 December. The radio added that during this 2 and 1/2-hour attack two tanks, five military vehicles, and five ammunition dumps were destroyed and large quantities of arms and ammunitions seized.

The Mujahed Radio added that Mas'ud Rajavi, leader of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, sent a congratulatory cable to Mehdi Eftikhari, commander of the INLA Forces in Ahvaz, on this victory over the Iranian regime's forces. This is the fifth attack by INLA forces against the Iranian regime in the past 10 days in various areas inside Iran.

The Mojahed Radio said these attacks resulted in killing and wounding 4,151 of the Iranian regime's soldiers and capturing 534 others, destroying a number of tanks, and seizing large quantities of weapons and military hardware,

Opposition Cited on Iranian Officers Killed

JN051532 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] Iranian opposition sources have said a number of the Khomeyni regime's commanders and henchmen were killed by Iraqi forces on the battlefronts recently. Radio Mojahed, mouthpiece of the Iranian opposition Mojahedin-e Khalq organization, today said Rajid Bazyan, commander of an enemy intelligence unit, was among the commanders killed. The report names other commanders and henchmen of the charlatan Khomeyni: Qorban 'Ali Bazvan, representative of the 57th Division Command; Molla Aqa'i, commander of the war engineering support corps of a military construction company; Hasan Aqa'izadeh, a technical and engineering assistant; and Mehdi, one of the henchmen and personnel at the Khomeyni Guard headquarters.

'Private' Source on Plans to Attack Syria

JN070933 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
7 Dec 87 pp 1, 22

[Text] According to private Israeli information, in its latest session held last week the enemy government, in its capacity as the "ministerial committee for security affairs," decided to retaliate for the Qibyah operation. The Qibyah operation was carried out by the Palestinian resistance using a glider in Qiryat Shemona at the end of November and according to official Israeli communiques resulted in the killing or wounding of 13 Israeli soldiers.

The attack shocked the Israeli military establishment and shook the Israeli public's confidence in the Israeli security theory. It prompted an exodus of settlers from Qiryat Shemona and northern settlements to the center of the country, for the settlers felt a lack of security and sought protection from surprise strikes by the resistance.

The source says the Israeli military establishment has approved a strike that will be a punishing show of force, to halt the collapse of morale in the Zionist entity and to restore confidence in its leaders, and at the same time to strike a military blow similar to the strike on the Iraqi nuclear reactor in the early 1980's.

According to the information that has leaked, the main objective of the operation is to deal a strong blow to a Syrian military target, which could be a long-range surface-to-surface missile base that threatens Israel.

According to the same source, the scenario of the operation begins with an Israeli air strike on some PFLP-GC bases in Syria. At the same time—using the pretext that the Syrian Air Force intercepted the attack—the source does not rule out the possibility of dogfights in the air between Syrian and Israeli planes as a diversion for the real Israeli objective, namely to strike at the Syrian missile bases and to test the developments introduced into the modernization of the Syrian Army and to test its preparedness and combat capability.

The source adds that following Shamir's public statement that the perpetrators of the attack will not escape punishment, and following various assertions made by Israeli officials and carried by the Israeli media that Syria was behind the Qibyah operation, and that the training on the gliders was given in PFLP-GC bases inside Syria, the publicity campaign is merely to pave the way for carrying out Israel's aggressive intentions against Arab targets.

The source attributes Israel's delay in retaliating to several reasons, the most important of which are the large-scale preparations and military training now taking place in the Negev simulating attacks on targets similar to the real targets the enemy plans to attack. Israel is also waiting until after the Reagan-Gorbachev summit so as not to anger the Soviets.

The source does not rule out the possibility of the enemy attacking Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon as a diversion prior to its attack on Syria, which is the real target.

No U.S. 'Green Light' for Attack on Syria

LD061050 Kuwait KUNA in English 0904 GMT
6 Dec 87

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 6 (KUNA)—The U.S. Administration has turned down three Israeli requests for a green light to attack Syrian and Palestinian targets fearing that such a strike would foil the superpowers summit, according to press reports here Sunday. Daily *Al-Ra'y al-'Amm* quoted sources in the State Department's Mideast section as saying that Washington had refused to give the green light fearing bad effects on the superpowers summit and on Mideast peace efforts. The American sources revealed that the strike codenamed "Arrow" involved 36 U.S.-made F-15 and F-16 warplanes of which 12 would provide cover and the remaining 24 launch the assault mission.

The Israeli bombers were scheduled to blast Syrian anti-aircraft SAM-5 missile batteries deployed around Damascus and near the Syrian-Lebanese borders, according to the sources.

They noted that Tel Aviv had planned a similar operation three years ago to knock out the SAM-5 missiles as well as land-to-land SS-21 rockets and other Palestinian commando bases for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command and Fatah breakaways in the Al-Biqa' valley, east of Lebanon and in Syria. The execution was postponed, however.

The sources said that Washington allowed limited Israeli air raids on Palestinian bases and targets in Lebanon but Tel Aviv rejected that option.

A PFLP-GC commando had launched recently a daring operation against an Israeli military camp in the Galilee finger using a hang glider that left six Israeli soldiers dead and seven others wounded, according to Israeli figures.

USSR Reportedly Warns Against Attacking Syria

LD071013 Kuwait KUNA in English 0858 GMT
7 Dec 87

[Text] Beirut, Dec 7 (KUNA)—The Soviet Union has warned Israel not to retaliate against Syria for Qiryat Shemona commando operation, press reports here said Monday. Lebanese *Al-Nahar* daily quoted Arab sources as saying that the warning was conveyed through the Romanian ambassador in Tel Aviv. The sources did not point out whether the Syrian Armed Forces which are deployed in the western sector of Beirut, Al-Biqa' valley, and north Lebanon are within the red line that Moscow would not allow any attack on it.

Israel earlier had accused Syria of sponsoring the hang glider commando operation of last November which was launched by commandos of the Popular Front for Liberation of Palestine General Command in northern occupied Palestine where six Israeli Army soldiers were killed and 8 others wounded.

Decision To Retaliate for Glider Attack Assessed

TA070638 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Ahmad Jibril's organization, as well as Syria, which assisted in the hang glider attack, are awaiting Israeli retaliation. U.S. and West European diplomats have demanded that Israel respond with restraint, lest its reaction become a source for deadly tension in the Middle East. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports:

Since the night of the hang gliders on Thursday, 1 and 1/2 weeks ago, both Syria and the terrorist organizations in the Al-Biqa' have been in a state of tension in anticipation of a possible Israeli retaliation for the gliders' infiltration into the Galilee panhandle. Over the past few days, U.S. and West European diplomats have appealed to Israeli diplomats to avoid a sharp Israeli retaliation, because this may cause an escalation in the Middle East. Jerusalem understands the Western warnings and appeals and messages emanating from Jordan, which want to prevent an escalation in Israeli-Syrian relations.

Israel reacted to these warnings with its customary statement that it alone will decide where, how, and when to react. This is the customary Israeli reaction, which leaves it the freedom to decide how to react to an aggressive act such as the infiltration of the gliders. As to the U.S. appeal to Israel to show restraint, Jerusalem notes that Washington did not deviate from its diplomatic codex which calls for such an appeal to Israel every time an Israeli retaliation can be expected.

Jibril Reported To Have 'Dozens' of Aircraft

TA061721 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 6 Dec 87 p 2

[Report by military correspondent Avi Bnayahu]

[Text] Ahmad Jibril's organization has at its disposal dozens of small aircraft such as hang gliders, drones, balloons, and even small planes which are easy to fly and which Jibril intends to assign to carry out attacks. It has been reported that Jibril flies aircraft to Syria and pilots in his organization operate in other Arab air forces as well. Jibril's organization has had an aerial capability for a few years, his men are well trained and have accumulated numerous flight hours and wide experience.

Terrorists in Lebanon Reported on High Alert

TA041723 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] The terrorist organizations in southern Lebanon are still maintaining a high state of alert in fear of an IDF operation. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that groups of Palestinian terrorists are still hiding outside refugee camps and that armed Shi'ite villagers, aided by Amal organization's people, are denying the Palestinian terrorists free access in the area. All the leaders of the Hizballah organization in the Lebanese villages left for Tehran this week for a convention of the Lebanese Liberation Front.

Commentary Criticizes U.S. Middle East Policy

TA041356 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Dec 87 p B1

[Commentary by Gid'on Samet: "Respect Uncle Sam, But Suspect Him"]

[Text] Now that the obituaries to the political initiative have been said and a monument has been placed over its fresh grave, several things should be said about the undertakers. They performed their job efficiently and exhibited an impressive ability to cooperate on this issue. I am not speaking here about the bad guys, who—as is well known—do not want peace; i.e., the Arabs, the PLO, and the Soviets. What can one expect of them? The ones who lowered the body to the grave and who threw the fresh earth on the coffin were the good guys: the Americans and us.

It is difficult to say clear things about ourselves, because in this issue we are only a mixture of contradictory yearnings; a sad and ongoing story of bickerings between a prime minister-become-foreign minister and a foreign minister-become-prime minister. There was almost no chance for us alone to reach an agreement on how to advance the peace process. If we cannot reach an understanding on the basic principles of the peace process, how can our twin leaders be expected to agree on the form it is to take? In these conditions it was the rejectionist component, rather than the initiating one, that could be expected to be victorious.

This dubious victory for Shamir would, however, have been much more difficult to attain without the behavior of the Americans. Take away their notorious cordiality, their suave formulations, their desire to help the entire world, and they will be the ones sporting the black sombrero in this western. Even Shim'on Peres could not restrain himself and hinted something to that affect this week. In an interview on IDF Radio he said something quite amazing. He said that the peace efforts must resume "whether or not Washington is enthusiastic about it."

Washington not enthusiastic about the peace efforts? Is this any way to speak about our great friend who has spared no effort for peace, and which has urgently sent envoys to the area? How can we make such accusations against a capital that has ceremoniously hosted most of the characters active in this drama and whose president addressed them out of specially arranged cards prepared for him?

Peres has not made a slip of the tongue. His advisers, who reflect his mood, also evince a feeling of bitterness toward the Americans. They speak about the Americans as suffering from a Soviet phobia. The Americans are Moscow haters where Israel is concerned, and Soviet lovers where a superpower arms agreement is concerned. They view such an agreement as a vital achievement for a failure-stricken administration about to end its term.

This should come as no surprise, however, because a glance backward at Washington's prior actions, and the remarks made by senior administration officials, shows very clearly what should have been clear beforehand. The Americans have never been enthusiastic about an arrangement in the Middle East including the essential precondition posed by the Arabs: Soviet participation. The Reagan administration started out as being ideologically the most anti-Soviet U.S. Administration since the cold war days of the 50's. The disarmament agreement was achieved despite, rather than because of, Reagan's personal inclinations towards the Soviets.

As far as Israel is concerned, since Reagan's election Washington has exerted ongoing pressure to include Israel in the regional anti-Soviet alignment. The memorandum of understanding on strategic cooperation (suspended because of the Golan Heights law), which was signed by Weinberger and Sharon in late 1981, continuously speaks about "deterring all the threats from the Soviet Union in our region." The Soviet threat—as the direct object—appears about six times in the memorandum. This attitude has not changed and has reappeared—albeit in a more subtle way—in U.S. statements regarding the renewal of the peace process.

The most recent, and perhaps most explicit statement, has come from new Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci. Why did Carlucci permit himself to speak more freely? Apparently because the whole business is already dead and there is no more need for diplomatic make-believe. Carlucci said that the Soviet Union wants to participate in the negotiations, "but there are no signs that it wants to act in a way which will bring peace any nearer."

U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering, a diplomat from whom we have not heard even one original and refreshing thought, tried to clear the atmosphere following Carlucci's remarks.

Appearing in Haifa early this week, Pickering defended his defense secretary, saying with feigned innocence that his country "has not set a final target date for convening an international conference." Who does he think he is fooling, when everyone now realizes that the conference idea is dead, and moreover, that the administration is not at all interested in it. And—added Pickering suavely—what is he concerned about? "That the Palestinians' despair will grow." This is the same despair which an international conference—with the undesirable participation of the Soviets—was meant to redress.

Today all this is talk after the fact. When the United States could have acted, it repeatedly proved how much its heart was not in it in pursuing what it understood as the most efficient means to further the process. George Shultz exerted no effort to influence Shamir in favor of the international conference. How could he have done so when any cub reporter could notice Washington's inhibitions?

Reagan did not raise the Middle East issue in his summit with Gorbachev in Reykjavik, and the foreign ministers of the two countries, following their leaders, avoided the topic as well. Even during the height of efforts to further the process, the State Department continued to pay only lip service to the international conference, claiming sourly that it is "only one of the possibilities for negotiations."

This retrospect of the behavior of the U.S. easily demonstrates how the positions of Washington and Shamir gradually came nearer and nearer until the two sides finally attained their goals: Shamir delayed the process and the United States prevented Soviet involvement.

These are severe things to say about the Americans. The importance of such statements is that a global interest caused the United States to avoid joint action with the Soviets for furthering peace in the region. This is a painful lesson—albeit not the only one of its kind—regarding our relations with Uncle Sam over 2 rather complicated years. Against the background of this period, with its various happenings, we as well as the United States have good reason to respect our ally, but also to suspect it.

Soviet Analysts Comment on Middle East Policy

TA041642 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Dec 87 pp 1, 7

[Report from Moscow by David Landau]

[Text] Moscow—The step-by-step rapprochement between Israel and various Eastern Bloc countries is "part of an overall policy" coordinated with the Kremlin, a top Soviet Middle East analyst confirmed here this week.

"It is an evolving modus vivendi," Vitaliy Naumkin told *The Jerusalem Post* in an interview.

But there could not be diplomatic relations between the USSR and Israel, he said, "because Israel is not ready—and I mean (Premier) Shamir."

Naumkin is head of the Middle East section of the Institute of Oriental Studies, a part of the Soviet Academy of Sciences. A brilliant Arabist, he was the youngest-ever doctor of sciences in the Soviet Union.

He expounded a position approaching that of Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres on an international conference. "Why not have separate bilateral talks between Israel and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation?" he said. The PLO's status as sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians was "not a matter of our dogma... It was a decision taken by the Arabs themselves at Rabat."

He said that glasnost in foreign policy meant that Moscow was no longer as limited as in the past by ideological motifs, such as national liberation rhetoric.

But another top Mideast expert interviewed by *The Post*, Igor Belyayev, bracketed Peres together with Shamir as responsible for the negotiating deadlock. "Peres is not a so-called old Zionist leader. He was an assistant to Ben-Gurion, and his policy is still that of an assistant."

Prof. Belyayev is a well-known commentator for the newspaper *Literaturnaya Gazeta* and a prominent Soviet spokesman on Middle Eastern affairs.

Both men said that Russia sought broader contacts with Israeli public opinion. Belyayev wondered why Soviet journalists were not invited to Israel (he himself has visited once, as the guest of a RAKAH-affiliated organization).

"Our press is much more open now," he noted. Naumkin said he might attend a seminar at Bi'r Zayt University in March ("Will they give me a visa?"), and would like to meet Israeli academics during that trip.

The interviews were arranged for *The Post* by the Middle East section of the *Novosti Press Agency* at the request of Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov. Both men cited the interviews themselves as evidence of the Soviet desire to expand relations of the non-diplomatic kind.

Belyayev confirmed that Foreign Minister Shevardnadze had offered the establishment of diplomatic interest sections, and expressed shocked disapproval that Peres had rejected this. He indicated that the Soviets had considered Peres' proposal for a Middle East mini-international conference within the framework of the Washington Summit a non-starter. (The idea was rejected by Jordan).

He said that Israel "is not our friend, or our ally, or even our partner-of-convenience" and dwelt on Israel's participation in an American SDI-linked project as "not a pro-Soviet step."

He played down the Arab world's rapprochement with Egypt, insisting that this was an upshot of the Iran-Iraq war and did not represent permanent acquiescence in Camp David. He noted with aproval that Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin had recently warned that Israel could face grave new challenges once the Gulf war was over.

Belyayev said that while the loss of life in the recent hang glider attack near Qiryat Shemona was regrettable, the Palestinians had plainly sought in this way "to influence the summit" where the Middle East issue would certainly figure prominently.

For the Soviet Union, he said, a peaceful Middle East was a key element in Moscow's broad peace strategy. "The political decision to evacuate Afghanistan has been taken," he said. The next step must be an end to the Gulf war, and then the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"If we could restore peace to our southern flank, that would be a great step towards peace in the world... The Mediterranean is a vital area for us. A central European solution, and disarmament there, could contribute to peace in the Mediterranean, and vice versa."

Naumkin, more discursive and less dogmatic, stressed the "compromises" that he said Moscow was continuing to make in its positions on the Mideast conflict. "We have been pressing the Arabs for years, persuading them that extremist solutions are unrealistic. We have been against terrorism, against talk of liquidating the State of Israel. If there is more pragmatism on the Arab side, much of the credit is ours.

"It is in the interest of the people of Israel to make progress. It's not our problem; it's your problem. Frankly, a lot of people here say we have no interest in getting involved. They say we can impose our friendship on the Arab countries, and are improving our relations with the West."

He spoke of new "optimism" in Soviet-Egyptian ties, of recent improvement in relations both with Iran and with Gulf Arab conservative states.

He claimed that current Soviet diplomacy had succeeded in allaying Iraqi fears that Moscow was swinging its support to the other side in the Gulf war.

Naumkin conceded that Iranian religious fundamentalism had been seeping across the border. "Iran tries to promote its propaganda by radio broadcasts and cassettes."

There was "some pressure" among Soviet Moslems for "more active religion...some people want their kids to have a traditional education. They want religious marriages and circumcisions.

"But I cannot say that this is a 'problem.' It stems from domestic dissatisfaction over life under Brezhnev rather than from external influences. There was corruption and misrule in Central Asia under Brezhnev...that led some people to turn to religion.

"The central government reacts calmly. It focuses on the need to solve peoples' everyday problems.

"In our political condition, it is impossible, I think, for a religious revival to breed political extremism. The party's influence is strong, especially on young people."

On Libya, Naumkin admitted that Al-Qadhdhafi's regime was "difficult to understand. But it's friendly, and we like it because it is hostile to U.S. imperialism.

"Of course we are not satisfied by some of his actions and policies...his terrorism im the 1970s. But he is not our puppet. He is our friend and we must work with him.

"Sometimes we ask our American colleagues about Israeli extremists, and they say they cannot influence them. It is the same with us and Libya. What can we do? He is rich! But he has learned some lessons...

"In the final analysis, you can't choose your allies!"

Egypt Complains of Sinai Air Space Violations

TA061908 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 6 Dec 87 p 5

[Report by Smadar Peri]

[Text] Egypt has complained that Israeli Air Force planes entered the Sinai Peninsula's airspace 200 times from September to October this year. In the sessions of the joint Israeli-Egyptian military liaison committee which ended at the Daniel Tower Hotel in Herzliyya on Friday, the Egyptian military delegation presented a long and detailed list of infiltrations into the Sinai's airspace by Air Force aircraft. Israel explained that the aircraft need maneuvering space when they fly in the south to make a full turn and fly back. The Egyptians rejected the Israeli explanation and demanded that the planes stop making "full turns" at once.

Shamir Discusses 'Awwad, Summit, Other Issues

TA041226 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 4 Dec 87 p 3

[Report by Rami Levin and Yosi Melman]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stated yesterday that Mubarak 'Awwad coordinates his activities and identifies with the terrorist organizations. Shamir mockingly pointed out that 'Awwad's nonviolent modus operandi is merely a pretense. Shamir seems to have decided to exercise his authority as interior minister and deport Mubarak 'Awwad next week.

Yesterday the prime minister addressed the union of foreign correspondents in Israel at its annual luncheon given in the prime minister's honor.

In his remarks before the question-and-answer portion, Shamir said he was praying for the success of the Gorbachev-Reagan meeting which will deal with the issue of dismantling medium-range missiles. Shamir told the foreign journalists that the boycott of Egypt was lifted at the Amman summit one decade after Al-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem. This move shows that some Arab countries recognize that Egypt's position was right, and the prime minister hopes this achievement will encourage Egypt to expand the peace process with Israel. Shamir noted that a realistic approach regarding the peace treaty would be to resume the Camp David process which was terminated by Egypt.

Replying to questions, Shamir said the latest border incident conflicted with the wishes of the Egyptian Government, which has taken all the necessary measures to apprehend the perpetrators and prevent the recurrence of such incidents.

Replying to a question as to whether Israel had supplied arms to Iran between 1984 and 1986, Shamir said that the government's policy is not to sell weapons to Iran. Asked what would be the issues in the 1988 election campaign, he said these would include the religious-secular struggle. Shamir noted that if none of the major parties attains a significant majority in the elections, he would not rule out the possibility of continuing with the national unity government. Replying to questions about nuclear weapons in the Middle East, the prime minister said Israel does not have nuclear weapons and it has always aspired to attain an agreement that would prevent their development and introduction into the region.

Commenting on star wars, Shamir said that the entire issue is now in its initial stages and despite the damages entailed in the possible cancellation of Reagan's space program, "we, as a country, are not interested in questions pertaining to confrontations in the stratosphere." Shamir confirmed that there is some cooperation in the production of certain SDI components, and added that we should await the outcome of the public argument

regarding the U.S. budget. Shamir also pointed to the differences of opinion in Israel about its financial share in joint projects with the United States.

Regarding the emigration of Israel Aircraft Industries workers to South Africa, the prime minister said he was sorry about every Israeli leaving the country, adding that Israel does not have a contract to produce an aircraft similar to the Lavi in South Africa. Shamir said it would be unrealistic to presume that a handful of emigres could pull off such a project without a contract between the countries.

Commenting on the sale of agricultural produce from the West Bank to Europe, Shamir said that for the sake of the Arab farmers it would be best not to bring politics into the matter. The prime minister said he agreed with former French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson, who told him that there is no need to bring politics into the question of marketing agricultural produce from the territories.

'Awwad Viewed as Both Danger, Hope for Peace

TA061510 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 6 Dec 87 p 19

[Article by Moshe 'Amirav: "Dr 'Awwad: A Risk And A Hope"]

[Text] Dr Mubarak 'Awwad, the director of the Palestinian Center for Non-Violence Studies, will apparently not be able to continue preaching his theories here. The visa stamped on his U.S. passport has expired and will not be renewed. Although he was born in Jerusalem, is a sixth generation Jerusalemite, and loves the city very much, he will be forced to go back to the United States.

Why are the authorities actually afraid of him? After all, he carries the banner of non-violence and does not even call for the establishment of a Palestinian state in Judaea and Samaria. His Israeli leftist friends admiringly refer to him as a moderate and level-headed person. On the face of it, he would seem to be an ideal partner for a dialogue and even for a peace agreement.

Dr 'Awwad is part of a new group of Palestinian figures who have reached the conclusion that in the present circumstances it is no longer possible to divide the land between two peoples. Therefore, they would rather become part of the State of Israel and conduct a national struggle from within through political means. They believe that an armed struggle, such as that advocated by the PLO, only decreases the chances of a solution. And what is the desired solution? No longer is it to annihilate the State of Israel, but rather to attain a majority within it.

This was Hanna Sinyurah's argument when he called on the Arabs of Jerusalem to stop boycotting municipal elections. A solution in Jerusalem, Sinyurah said, is no less important than a solution on the national level. This is also what Dr Sari Nusaybah proposes, and he is prepared to come to terms with an Israeli annexation on the condition that his civil rights are guaranteed. In the first stage, the Palestinians would receive 50 Knesset seats and within a few years, through democratic means, they would attain a majority.

The three men realize that there is no longer any need for violence. When an objective may be attained in a respectable, humane, and democratic manner, then terror, war, and bereavement only become an impediment. Therefore, they seek not an armed struggle but a political one; no more a Palestinian state instead of or alongside the State of Israel, but the integration into it as a minority aspiring to become a majority. Last week Dr 'Awwad even went as far as saying that he could not care less what the joint country is called. As far as he is concerned, it can be called Israel.

This is a new and revolutionary approach. On the one hand, it harbors a risk to the existence of the State of Israel, perhaps no less than the PLO's avowed objective of a military solution. On the other hand, however, it is the first indication that the Palestinians have sobered up and are looking in the direction of a peace agreement. I, for one, regard this development as a political, moral, and intellectual challenge. Dr 'Awwad has thrown down a gauntlet to Israel's leftwing which aspires to establish a Palestinian state in Judaea and Samaria, to the Alignment which supports a territorial compromise, and to the rightwing which wants to hold onto the territories in particular.

In Jerusalem Dr 'Awwad is both a risk and a hope. In the United States, he is just an uninfluential Palestinian.

King Husayn, Delegation Return From Cairo

JN061634 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 6 Dec 87

[excerpt] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn and his accompanying delegation returned to Amman today following a short working visit to Egypt. During the visit, his majesty met with Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the two sides held a comprehensive assessment of recent developments in the Arab and international arenas in light of His Majesty King Husayn's contacts following the extraordinary Amman summit. The two leaders reviewed relations between the two fraternal countries. They were also briefed by the two countries' prime ministers on the decision reached by the joint Egyptian-Jordanian higher committee during its meetings, which ended in Cairo last Friday. [passage omitted]

King Husayn Leaves for Saudi Arabia 7 Dec

JN071451 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1400 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn left Amman for Saudi Arabia this afternoon on a short working visit within the framework of continuous coordination and consultations between the two fraternal countries. During this visit, his majesty will hold talks with King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, on developments in the region, particularly those pertaining to the efforts under way to convene an international Middle East peace conference and to end the Iraq-Iran war in light of the Amman summit's historic resolutions and its positive results. The talks will also deal with bilateral cooperation in all fields.

Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, accompanied his majesty on this visit. Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd al-Wahhab al-Majali, Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, Chief Chamberlain His Highness Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd, and senior Royal Hashemite Court officials saw his majesty off. The Saudi ambassador in Amman left on the same plane.

Dudin Comments on Reagan-Gorbachev Summit

JN061342 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
6 Dec 87 pp 1, 19

[By Ahmad Shakir]

[Text] Amman—The Jordanian Government has welcomed the U.S.-Soviet summit which will be held in Washington tomorrow, Monday. In a statement to *Al-Dustur*, acting Foreign Minister Marwan Dudin said the Arab unanimity acheived by the Arab leaders at the Amman summit is bound to have a positive effect on the superpower summit agenda, especially with regard to the Iraq-Iran war, or what is termed the Gulf issue, and the Middle East issue, which is the Palestinian question and the Zionist aggression against the Arab homeland that has taken the form of a state for 40 years. Dudin said Jordan hopes the unified Arab stand will have a positive effect on the superpower meeting. Without the superpowers' agreement on the general outlines of a desired solution for the Gulf and Palestine, it will be difficult to predict what will happen to these two important issues.

The acting foreign minister affirmed that the outcome of the Reagan-Gorbachev meeting should not change our conviction that the solutions which are in our interest are those which we ourselves work for seriously, whether by our unanimous, sincere support for Iraq in its just war against the Persian invasion or by our general belief in the need to find a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and to establish just and lasting peace in the region based on international legality. In this regard, an international conference and the formula contained in the Amman summit resolutions would be used as a means to achieve a general Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza and to enable the Palestinian Arab people to exercise all their national rights, including the right to self-determination.

Dudin said the world is looking to the superpower meeting this time with greater expectations, because the meeting between the Soviet foreign minister and the U.S. secretary of state covered an important area, ironed out many of the differences, and reached an initial agreement on arms limitations affecting intermediate range missiles in the EC countries, on the one hand, and the USSR and some of the Eastern Bloc countries on the other.

Dudin concluded his statement by saying: Small interests and weak relations will not be present at the superpower meeting. However, whether we like it or not, their meeting will have some form of direct or indirect effect on the hot spots in the world.

Joint Committee Members Return From Cairo

JN061704 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Amman—Members of the Jordanian delegation to the meetings of the joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee, which concluded its work in Cairo the day before yesterday, returned to Amman today. [passage omitted]

Senate President Returns After Visit to Spain

JN061934 Amman Television Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Excerpt] This evening Ahmad al-Lawzi, Senate president, returned to Amman. He led a Senate delegation on an official visit to Spain, where he conveyed a message from His Majesty King Husayn to King Juan Carlos. [passage omitted]

AL-RA'Y Criticizes EC Stand on Conference

JN050809 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
5 Dec 87 pp 1, 28

[Editorial: "Arab Solidarity and Western Solidarity"]

[Text] The United States and Israel have reiterated their opposition to the proposed international Middle East peace conference, which a recent UN General Assembly resolution supported. With the exception of Greece and Spain, which voted for the resolution, the EC member states abstained. This is a virtual test of the unified Arab will spawned by the Amman summit; continued American rejection of the proposed conference is a clear defiance of this will. Israel's continued intransigence confirms that the alleged dispute between Shamir and Peres over the proposed conference is a mere tactical ploy to waste time.

Meanwhile, it is striking that a majority of the EC nations should have abstained from voting. Coming as it does a few days before the American-Soviet summit, the abstention is a message from the EC to Gorbachev that Western solidarity with the United States counts for more than the proposed international conference. The Arabs are supposed to draw the necessary conclusions and not be carried away with the hopes they attach to the European stand.

If it is in the nature of things that every nation or group of nations work out their order of priorities in keeping with their interests, it is time the Arabs arranged their political, economic, and commercial priorities to suit their interests. The Arabs should distinguish between those who put the Arab-Israeli dispute high on their agenda and those who relegate it to a minor position. If the Arabs can prove they are no less jealous of their solidarity than the EC is of Western solidarity, the logic of interests will come into play. If this happens, those who have been vacillating over our cause will hasten to be more sympathetic to it out of concern about their own interests.

Reciprocity is an accepted, legitimate principle in international relations. Given sufficient determination, it should be possible for the Arabs to invest their solidarity on the international scene. It should have real clout with those who cherish Western solidarity. If the Europeans are entitled to wager on Western solidarity, the Arabs are equally entitled to wager on their own solidarity.

AL-DUSTUR Views Husayn-Mubarak Meeting

JN070957 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
7 Dec 87 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "Husayn-Mubarak Meeting"]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn's brief visit to Cairo yesterday and the meeting with his brother His Excellency President Husni Mubarak falls within the context of that long chain of joint coordination meetings which have brought the two great Arab leaders together for several years and consolidated the ties of sincere fraternity and cooperation between the two fraternal countries. The king's visit also follows the conclusion of the meetings of the seventh session of the Egyptian-Jordanian joint Higher Committee in Cairo, where another important step was taken on the path of mutual cooperation between the two fraternal countries, making the results of the joint Higher Committee meetings a solid basis for building more ties of sincere fraternity and mutual political understanding between the political leaderships in Jordan and Egypt.

There is no doubt that the circumstances in which such meetings between Arab leaders are held—both Damascus and Baghdad witnessed similar meetings during the past few days—necessitate more such fraternal dialogues to obtain results which would help deepen the spirit of the extraordinary Amman summit and unify the Arab capitals concerned over a number of basic stands relating to vital Arab issues, mainly the Palestinian question and the Iraq-Iran war.

While we look to His Majesty King Husayn's continuous meetings with his brother Arab heads of state with profound confidence, we hope they will further consolidate the joint Arab stand, giving it more strength and vitality. We do not doubt that the new Arab spirit stemming from the conference of reconciliation and accord a month ago will continue to spread in the body of the Arab nation so that it may restore its full unity and solidarity, wrest its rights, and confront the challenges threatening it from all directions.

'Remaining Hostages' To Be Released in 6 Months

NC051158 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] While the French Government has emphasized in a statement by Prime Minister Jacques Chirac that France did not pay any ransom to the abductors of Roger Auque and Jean-Louis Normandin in return for their release, the magazine *Al-Shira'* has asserted that a $3-million ransom was paid to the kidnappers. The magazine reports, without revealing its sources, that the two Frenchmen were released in a deal which stipulated that $1.5 million be paid for each hostage.

Al-Shira' adds that in addition to the exchange of the two French and Iranian diplomats and payment of an installment of the French debt to Iran, Paris has promised to stop sending arms to Iraq to balance its refusal to supply Iran with French weapons.

Al-Shira' also reports that the remaining hostages will be released within the next 6 months. The magazine does not specify whether this would apply to the remaining 3 French hostages or all remaining Western hostages, who number 17.

France Denies Ransom Paid for Hostages

NC050646 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Excerpt] The French Foreign Affairs Ministry has categorically denied a report published by the magazine *Al-Shira'* that France paid a $3-million ransom and pledged to stop its arms suplies to Iraq in return for the release of French hostages Jean-Louis Normandin and Roger Auque. [passage omitted]

Al-Huss Leaves for Paris Mediterranean Meeting

NC071230 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss left Beirut for Paris at noon today to participate in meetings of an intellectual club of Mediterranean Basin states. Representatives of these states, excluding Israel, will attend the meetings. Al-Huss is also expected to meet with senior French officials during his stay in Paris.

Birri Condemns Source of U.S. Hijacking Charge

NC051335 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] Responding to U.S. accusations that Minister Nabih Birri had recruited Fawwaz Yunis to hijack a Jordanian Alia plane, Justice Minister Nabih Birri has issued the following statement:

We present to the world public, and especially the U.S. public, Jamal Hamdan, a person the U.S. Administration brags about recruiting to fight what it terms terrorism and who was behind the arrest of Fawwaz Yunis, with whom he had a strong friendly relationship, on the charge of hijacking a Jordanian Alia plane in 1985. Despite the fact that the arrest took place months ago, the U.S. Administration only yesterday revealed its plot by presenting a recording of an interview with Jamal Hamdan to make false accusations against Minister Nabih Birri.

Jamal Hamdan was born in Beirut in 1958. His father is Diyab and his mother Zaynab. He is a hashish addict and a known heroin and cocaine smuggler. He allied himself and cooperated with the Israelis when they entered Beirut in 1982. He owned a printing press for counterfeiting dollars. He killed his brother, Muhammad Diyab Hamdan, in Burj Abu Haydar in 1984; two Egyptians in Khandaq al-Ghamiq in 1983; two Lebanese in the house of his friend Hasan Kuhayl during a reconciliation ceremony; Sami Muhammad Rida after a personal dispute in Beirut; a Kurd in Al-Hamra Street; a Christian doctor in Al-Basta who had honked his horn while driving behind him; a person in Poland, by knifing, during his visit there; Khudr Habanjar in Beirut; and the wife of his brother, whom he shot in the stomach with eight bullets.

The Amal Movement detained him on 1 November 1984, but he escaped after less than 1 year. He has been sentenced to death by Lebanese courts. Interpol has issued a warrant for his arrest. His pictures were distributed in West Germany. He and his brother 'Ali are wanted by the judiciary there. This is only some of the information about Jamal Hamdan, the source U.S. intelligence uses to slander innocent people and defame leaders.

Abu Nidal Ends Investigation of 8 Europeans

NC042005 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] The Abu Nidal group has announced the conclusion of its investigations in connection with the eight Europeans whom it took hostage after seizing their boat off the Israeli coast last month. The group said that the results of the investigation will be announced soon and will be a surprise to the world.

Israeli Armored Concentrations Seen in South

NC041757 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] Regarding the enemy's military build-up, which has been in progress since the Qiryat Shemona operation, reports from Marj 'Uyun this morning note that the occupation forces have massed a large armored force in the Metulla area. An Israeli armored convoy was seen moving toward the Al-'Ayshiyah-al-Rayhan axis and another toward the Ibil al-Saqy plain. It has also been

reported from western Al-Biqa' that the enemy has massed armed forces in the Al-Ahmadiyah and Jazzin areas. It has been learned that columns of armored vehicles yesterday took up a position close to Al-Dallafah, Al-Ahmadiyah, Al-Surayrah, and Kafr Huna. Another column entered the Jazzin area.

An NNA correspondent cited reports from the occupied areas that an Israeli military delegation toured the occupation forces' positions in the eastern sector of southern Lebanon this morning.

Tanks Deployed at Border

NC050908 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] According to security reports from the south, Israeli forces have brought a number of tanks and military vehicles into the border strip via the Metulla settlement. Furthermore, Israeli forces have been massed in the Kafr Hunah, Al-Dallafah, and Jazzin areas.

Reinforcements in Hasbayya

NC051747 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] According to security reports from western Al-Biqa' received by the Voice of Lebanon, Israeli military reinforcements consisting of tanks and field artillery have been monitored in the Hasbayya and Al-Wazzani areas in the past 48 hours. The Israeli reinforcements have deployed in the Al-Mari area, which faces Syrian positions in western Al-Biqa'.

PFLP Claims Attack on Israeli Radar Position

NC050652 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] The PFLP has announced that one of its groups used rockets to attack an Israeli Army radar position in Al-Bayyadah in the south on 3 December. Fighting erupted between the two sides, leaving many Israelis dead or wounded, according to the Front.

PLO To Acquire 4 'Sophisticated' Dinghies

NC051306 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] Voice of Lebanon has learned that a major Palestinian arms trader has concluded a deal with a European country for the purchase of four sophisticated rubber dinghies for the PLO. The PLO intends to transport the craft to southern Lebanon as soon as possible.

3 SLA Soldiers Killed in Clash With Hizballah

NC050816 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] A state of extreme tension is prevailing among the ranks of the South Lebanese Army [SLA] and Islamic and leftist organizations along the combat lines east of Sidon. This comes in the wake of violent clashes along the Kafr Falus-Lib'a-'Ayn al-Mir lines after midnight last night. During the fighting the Jazzin area was the target of shellfire.

The fighting began with an attack launched by Hizballah on an SLA position in Tumat Jazzin at approximately 0045 today. This was followed by clashes between the two parties, which lasted about 2 hours. An SLA military source has described the battle as ferocious. He reported that the attackers suffered numerous casualties, both dead and wounded. He added that the SLA captured a prisoner of war. Three SLA soldiers were martyred, the source said.

7 Hizballah Reported Killed

NC050937 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] The bodies of seven Hizballah members killed early today in an attack by extremist gunmen on an SLA position remain unclaimed. The SLA lost three soldiers in the fighting, which took place in the Taw'amat Jazzin area. The dead SLA soldiers are Nabil Butrus 'Atiyah, Marun Butrus Diyab, and Sa'id Nasib Shahin. One of the attackers was captured. The clash was followed by an exchange of artillery shelling, which extended to Jazzin.

Lahd Militia Shells Sidon Area; One Killed

NC071341 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] The Lahd militia exacerbated the situation on the Kafr Falus-Lib'a-'Ayn al-Mir front today. Clashes involving the use of various kinds of weapons took place between those manning positions of the Popular Liberation Army and personnel in militia positions from 0900 to 1100. Artillery shells fell on residential areas in Sidon.

A responsible military source from the Nasirite Popular Organization issued a statement at midday today, saying: Positions of the Popular Liberation Army came under heavy artillery bombardment this morning from emplacements of the agent's militia in Kafr Falus and Jazzin. One fighter of the Popular Liberation Army was martyred. Residential areas between Kafr Falus and Sidon also came under similar attacks. This prompted the Popular Liberation Army to return the fire.

Islamic Resistance Kills 11 in Jazzin Attack

NC051235 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] The Islamic Resistance dealt a formidable blow to the Israeli occupation forces and their agents in an important strategic military position in Jazzin at dawn today. These forces and their agents were dislodged from the position after the resistance fighters attacked it with rockets and machineguns, killing 11 men. The exchange of fire between the fighters and the agents continued from 0230 to 0500. As a result, the Israelis and the militiamen sustained heavy losses in men and ammunition.

The Islamic Resistance has issued a statement on the operation, stating:

In response to the capitulationist plot which the U.S. Administration is dictating and which is being implemented by the subservient and treasonous regimes in the area, and in response to all suspect calls which began with Camp David and are continuing with the call for a capitulationist international conference, arrived at through panting after the restoration of the treasonous relations with the Zionist Egyptian regime, the Martyrs Nasri Tlays and 'Isa Musa Group attacked positions of the enemies and agents in Tawma'at Niha, inflicting on the enemy heavy losses in men and equipment.

Meanwhile, the rocket unit of Martyr 'Ali 'Ammar of the Islamic Resistance attacked with rockets the 'Ayn al-Khawkh position, while the artillery unit shelled the position of the Zionists and agents in Kafr Huna, inflicting heavy enemy casualties.

The statement said that in this impressive, daring attack, two resistance fighters were martyred.

Agent Lahd's radio has admitted the operation, alleging that only three militiamen were killed: Nabih Butrus, Marun Butrus Diyab, and Sa'id Nasib Shahin. It also claimed that one fighter was captured.

It has been learned that the militia, supported by Israeli occupation forces, have retaliated with violent artillery and rocket fire, which is reportedly continuing.

Destroys Tank; Lahd Casualties

NC061740 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] The Islamic Resistance has affirmed that it killed five agent Lahd militiamen when an explosive charge went off as a tank was passing in the occupied southern area, close to the Palestine border. A statement issued by the Islamic Resistance said that an armed mujahidin group detonated a bomb at the moment a Lahd army patrol passed by on a road in the Jazzin area between Al-Suwaydah and Tuhrah, about 73 km south of Beirut. The statement added that a tank was destroyed and its six [figure as heard] crew members killed. Before towing away the tank, the Israeli forces and their agents pursued the armed group and fired machineguns in the area of the incident.

9 February Claims Attack on Syrian Forces

NC051253 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] The Khalil 'Akkawi Unit of the 9 February Organization has announced that one of its groups attacked a position of the Syrian occupation forces in Al-Bahsas in Tripoli at 2200 yesterday. A Syrian officer was killed and a number of soldiers wounded during the attack, in which rockets and machineguns were used. The organization claimed that another group had attacked a Syrian position in the Al-Qal'ah area in Tripoli, inflicting a number of casualties.

Syrians Take Precautions Against Hizballah

NC051813 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon has learned that the Syrian forces are studying an urgent plan to assemble their personnel manning various checkpoints in West Beirut and on the airport road and to deploy them in safer areas.

This follows information received by Syrian intelligence about imminent attacks on the Syrian forces, especially by Hizballah. That group will carry out operations simultaneous with the beginning of the big Iranian offensive against Iraq.

According to reports, Hizballah personnel carrying arms and driving military vehicles roam freely in several areas of West Beirut without being stopped by the Syrian forces.

In accordance with this Syrian plan, and as a first step, all Syrian personnel will withdraw from their checkpoints to their barracks at 1600 each day. At 2100, Syrian personnel will not be allowed to go out in military uniforms, regardless of the reasons, and no patrols will be sent into the streets.

Syrian Positions in Tripoli Attacked

NC051829 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] An armed group firing RPG's and machineguns attacked a Syrian position located in the Al-Amirikan school in Tripoli this morning. The Syrian forces immediately cordoned off the area and began search operations.

Meanwhile, a Syrian position in Al-Bahsas came under bazooka and machinegun fire last night. A clash ensued in which a Syrian officer was wounded. Another Syrian position in the Citadel also was attacked. A limited clash ensued between the armed group and the Syrian soldiers positioned there.

In another development, a Syrian checkpoint on Al-Latifi Street in Al-Zahiriyah came under a rocket attack. No casualties were reported.

Liberation Battalion Claims Killing of Syrian

NC061220 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Gunmen fired at a Syrian occupation Army soldier at noon today under the Cola bridge in West Beirut, killing him. A short while later the Amin Maryam group of the Liberation Battalion claimed responsibility for killing the soldier, adding that its gunmen had seized his rifle. [passage omitted]

18 Reportedly Wounded in Shatila Camp Fighting

NC062025 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] AFP has cited a Palestinian official in Shatila camp as saying tonight that 18 people had been wounded in clashes today between rival Palestinian groups inside the camp. These clashes are considered the fiercest since the start of the camp's siege in May 1985.

Resistance Attacks Israeli-Lahd Positions

NC061024 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] National Resistance fighters yesterday launched a violent Katyusha and mortar attack on a position held jointly by the enemy and his agents on the Kawkaba Hills in the eastern sector [of south Lebanon]. Smoke was seen rising from the position. Immediately afterward, two Israeli helicopters landed at the position and removed those wounded in the attack.

Security sources in Marj 'Uyun have stated that four enemy soldiers and agents were wounded and taken to Marj 'Uyun Hospital and other hospitals inside occupied Palestinian territory.

Shells Settlement 7 Dec

NC070654 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Lebanese National Resistance fighters fired three Katyusha rockets at the Nahariyyah settlement this morning in retaliation for attacks on our villages in the steadfast south. They scored direct and deadly hits inside the settlement, causing much property damage. A three-story building was destroyed, and two persons were killed, as admitted by a Zionist spokesman inside the occupied territory. The enemy's forces inside the border strip fired tank and mortar shells at the area from which the rockets were launched. Helicopters dropped flares during the search for the resistance men.

A group of the Lebanese National Resistance has also launched a machinegun and rocket attack on a position held jointly by the occupation forces and their agents in the 'Ayta al-Sha'b Triangle. They destroyed a machinegun emplacement, killing two of the guards. Soon afterward a Merkava tank was seen moving from the eastern gate of the position. The resistance men fired antiarmor shells, destroying the tank and injuring all its crew members.

During the clashes which erupted between the Resistance fighters and Israelis in the 'Ayta al-Sha'b Triangle, several Israeli armored cars were seen moving from the town of Rumaysh to reinforce the position. The fighters intercepted them, destroying one car. The Resistance fighters then retreated toward Jabal Humayyid. The enemy artillery shelled the area until morning in a wide-scale raking operation. The enemy's casualties are not known; however, an Israeli spokesman admitted that the militia forces in the border strip area, precisely in 'Ayta al-Sha'b, had suffered one dead and one wounded.

At dawn yesterday resistance men attacked with machineguns and rockets a position which was held jointly by the Israeli occupation forces and Agent Lahd Militia in Shaqif al-Naml in the eastern sector. They clashed with guards there for 15 minutes. According to security reports, the Resistance men withdrew after hitting their targets. The guards then raked the area of Shaqif al-Naml and nearby villages with machinegun and tank fire. The agent militia's media have admitted the operation but mentioned no casualties.

Al-Murabitun Joins Egypt's Nasirite Group

NC070836 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 5 Dec 87 p 4

[Text] The Central Emergency Committee Secretariat of the Independent Nasirite Movement—Al-Murabitun released a statement yesterday focusing on the onslaughts by forces hostile to the Arab nation against Al-Nasir's course, ideology, method, practice, and history of national, pan-Arab, and Muslim struggle. The statement noted the campaigns against Khalid Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir by certain parties and writers who fulfill the desires of certain quarters.

Noting the emergence of Egypt's Nasirite Revolution organization and its goals against Zionist and U.S. interests under the leadership of Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir, the statement declared on behalf of the cadres, leaders, and establishments of the Independent Nasirite Movement allegiance to Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir, as leader, to secure the continuation of the Nasirite course.

The movement also declared its political decision to unify with the Egypt's Nasirite Revolution organization under the leadership of Brother Khalid Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir. The movement declares that it will comply with his political, trade unionist, and social decisions on the pan-Arab level. Concerning its role in Lebanon, the Movement will continue to shoulder the responsibility of the political and social struggle, and the Al-Murabitun forces and units will continue their military struggle and duties in the Lebanese arena. The statement noted that the Movement had apprised Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir of its decision.

Uruguay, Argentina To Return Ambassadors

NC041328 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] Uruguay and Argentina have decided to send their ambassadors back to Lebanon. The ambassadors had been recalled for several reasons in the past.

The new Uruguayan ambassador to Lebanon today visited Ambassador Fu'ad al-Turk, Foreign Ministry secretary general, and notified him of his country's decision.

Al-Turk visited the Argentinian charge d'affaires in Lebanon, who told him that his country had decided to rent new premises for its embassy instead of its current offices on Fu'ad al-Awwal Street. He also disclosed that the Argentinian ambassador will arrive in Lebanon soon.

Al-Ahmar Receives Spanish Communist Official

JN061435 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, received Juan Francisco, member of the Secretariat and Executive Committee of the Spanish Communist Party, and his delegation in Damascus today. Talks centered on the growing relations between the Ba'th Party and the Spanish Communist Party, recent developments in both the Arab and international arenas, the two friendly parties' struggle in their respective arenas, and the dangers resulting from the imperialist, Zionist, and racist plans led by the United States against peoples and their liberation forces.

During the talks, Comrade al-Ahmar stressed Syria's principled and firm positions under President Hafiz al-Asad against these plans. He also affirmed Syria's determination to confront these plans, to continue its efforts toward building a new society, to struggle to liberate the occupied Arab territories, and to regain the Palestinian people's established rights.

The Spanish official expressed his satisfaction with the current progress in Syria. He stressed his party's support for the struggle of Syria and the Arab nation to strengthen relations between the two friendly parties and peoples to promote their joint goals and interests. An agreement was signed today between the Ba'th Party and the Spanish Communist Party.

Former Lebanese President Franjiyah Arrives

JN061700 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] Damascus—Former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah arrived in Damascus this evening. Wahib Fadil, minister of state for presidential affairs, received him at Damascus International Airport.

Paper Says U.S. 'Obstacle Hindering Peace'

JN061200 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 6 Dec 87

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Egyptian Regime's Dangerous Role," *Al-Ba'th* says: The ties and contacts among the three parties to the Camp David accords have recently been activated and Cairo has become the point of the convergence of the U.S. and Israeli policies after the Egyptian regime has taken it upon itself to carry out a dual mission. First, the Egyptian regime is interested in promoting its own style of concluding a compromise with the Zionist entity. Second, it is also interested in strengthening its ties with the Arab side or at least in creating a relationship with Arab states and regimes.

What concerns the United States right now is to make the Egyptian regime a mediator after it stripped it of the specifications characterizing Arab affiliation. To enable the Egyptian rulers to play such a role, the United States is interested in strengthening Cairo's ties with the Zionist entity. The security aspect is the most important issue being discussed, as it is sought to be made the strongest link in Egyptian-Zionist ties. Hence, the U.S. Administration has proposed that a joint border security committee between the Egyptian regime and the Zionist enity be created, particularly in light of the Rafah fedayeen incident. Through this development of Egyptian-Zionist relations, the United States seeks to insinuate that the road to peace in the Middle East is only achievable through direct bilateral talks between Israel on the one hand and each Arab state concerned on the other.

Paul Boeker, an adviser to the U.S. delegation at the United Nations, admitted that Washington rejects the international conference option, as it rules out the Camp David style. Paul Boeker affirmed that the international conference is a formula that goes against his country's strategy and that the United States rejects it out of its eagerness to preserve its long-term plans in the Middle East, even if this option is accepted by some Israelis.

Therefore, the United States is the obstacle hindering peace in the region. As the Zionist entity implicitly represents a U.S. state, Washington's desires reflect and boost the desires of Zionism. Hence, we perceive the seriousness of the role that the Egyptian regime has played and continues to play, as this regime is only interested in boosting U.S. strategy and, consequently, bolstering Zionism's conditions for bringing about peace at the expense of the Arab nation and its legitimate rights.

Afghanistan

BAKHTAR Reports Najibullah News Conference

LD041835 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari
1130 GMT 2 Dec 87

[Text] Written question submitted by Cathy Evans, BBC eastern service: What (?proposals do you have to those) opposing the program of national reconciliation?

Najibullah: I discussed this topic in the Grand Assembly. We have stated several times in detail our position on attracting the opposition forces in a clear and specific manner. I would like to point out that the question is not the making of some special or new proposals; the question involves the sincere interests of both sides to hold a real dialogue. All the necessary things have been said by our side. Meanwhile, we have very clearly stated our readiness for just and flexible compromises for peace. Now it is the opposition forces' turn. For our part, we have sincerely taken the path of peace and we do not intend to retreat from it.

Question: What is your position on the return home of the limited military contingent of the Soviet Union?

Najibullah: Most of your questions have already been asked of me. In my statement in the Grand Assembly yesterday, I touched on all points relating to the return of the Soviet forces. I think I have already answered your question.

Question: What losses have the Air Forces of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union suffered?

Najibullah: It is very difficult for me to discuss this matter because we are not talking about military aircraft, which are equipped to defend themselves. In the first place, the tragedy is the fact that as a result of the actions of the extremists, civilian aircraft are suffering damage. It is nonmilitary personnel, elderly men, women, and children who suffer. I cannot find any other way to descibe this but to say that it is a merciless action. If you are interested in finding out the number of downed aircraft and how many people have been martyred, go count them yourself. We have published the news about them in the mass media. However, this would still be a tragic story.

Question: What is the numbers of Afghan and Soviet Air Forces?

Najibullah: We have a sufficient Air Force at our disposal, including military, transport, and passenger planes. We have air links with a number of foreign countries. Due to the undeclared war and natural conditions, the great burden of transport in our country falls on the Air Force. This situation has emerged because of the complex problems that have resulted from the actions of the extremists. However [words indistinct] we talked about this yesterday in the Grand Assembly, for example. It is only with transport aircraft that we can take food and clothing assistance to Khowst District.

Question by FRG radio correspondent: How should the policy of national reconciliation be accepted and realized by the Afghan refugees?

Najibullah: We know how the policy of national reconciliation has been accepted by our compatriots abroad. Our policy has been accepted as the way of [word indistinct], as the coming of peace and as the path to return home. Tens of thousands of refugees have now returned home, and you know the figure. Hundreds of thousands have not (?lost hope) of coming back. (?The extremists) who oppose national reconciliation are the obstacle. By creating obstacles, they are preventing Afghans from returning home. This action, in which they sacrifice the lives of hundreds of thousands of our brothers, sisters, fathers, and mothers for their political gain, is inhuman. Let them eliminate the obstacles. No other obstacles exist. The homeland is awaiting its sons.

Question: How much annual assistance, in rubles or dollars, does Afghanistan receive?

Najibullah: The total assistance for economic development which Afghanistan gets from abroad amounts to $220 million or 11 billion afghanis. Eighty percent of this assistance is given by the Soviet Union. I must add that the Soviet Union's annual grants-in-aid assistance amounts to billions of afghanis in the form of primary consumer goods.

Question: How can Islam be used to promote a progressive policy?

Najibullah: As we have stated many times, Islam, as a religion of thought, is not in contradiction with the construction of a just, free, and fraternal society in our country. Therefore, we treat Islam and all its values with respect.

Question: Which tendencies of the Islamic fundamentalists could penetrate further into Afghanistan?

Najibullah: I want to say clearly that this is not a simple question. At least, it necessary not be asked at a news conference. Rather, it should be assessed at a scientific conference. I will say in short that we were and are against the abuse of Islam by the so-called fundamentalists for the purpose of turning a 20th century society toward the values of the medieval ages, and we oppose their struggle against social progress.

Question: How many soldiers have been killed during the years of war as a result of terrorist actions?

Najibullah: The answer to this question should be given by those who fire at the innocent children, elderly people, and women, by those who supply weapons to the

bandits, and by those who are still supplying them with war technology and ammunition. Every drop of blood which has been shed by Afghan and Soviet soldiers in defending the gains of the April Revolution will never be forgotten by the noble Afghan people.

Question: Do you have any contact with the former king of Afghanistan? Is it necessary to assist in his return?

Najibullah: I answered this question at a press conference which was held in Moscow at the beginning of November this year.

Question by the *Novosti Press Agency* reporter: How do you assess the future of Afghanistan after the promulgation of the Constitution and your election as president?

Najibullah: The promulgation of the Constitution and the election of the president of course provide suitable conditions for the establishment of peace in Afghanistan. We are resolutely struggling for this noble end. We look to the future with optimism.

Question: What is the significance of the fact that you were elected by the Grand Assembly and that the National Assembly will be elected through free elections?

Najibullah: The leader of Afghanistan is traditionally elected by the Grand Assembly. This is in complete accord with the essence [words indistinct] of our times. We view this tradition with appreciation and put it at the service of society. The National Assembly, as it has been enshrined in the Constitution, is elected in accordance with norms that are current in many countries.

Question by an Afghan journalist: In accordance with the articles of the Constitution, the Revolutionary Council will continue its work until the election of the National Assembly. Please explain what duties the Revolutionary Council will undertake during this period and what legal rights it will have.

Najibullah: Article 145 of the Constitution offers a clear answer to this question. This article states that with the promulgation of the Constitution and the election of the president, the activity of the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council of Ministers will continue its work as outlined in the Constitution for the National Assembly until the election of the National Assembly and the appointment of a new Council of Ministers. Thus, during the interim period, not more than 6 months after the day of promulgation of the Constitution, all state laws of the Revolutionary Council and the Council of Ministers have no legal authority.

Question by [name indistinct] from the FRG: What role could the FRG play in the process of national reconciliation on an international level?

Najibullah: The FRG with its great political and economic weight, if it wants, could play a role in accelerating the policy of national reconciliation on an international level. A great process could be begun in the international arena with the FRG as a bridge. We hope the FRG will view all dimensions of our present policy with goodwill and play a role in putting an end to the bloodshed in our country. We hope the FRG will prepare suitable grounds for us with the Afghan refugees residing in the FRG. Today, in our opinion, necessary opportunities have been provided for our refugees to return home.

Question: What role of importance do you see in the solidarity movement with Afghanistan in the FRG? What would you like to say to the 10,000 Afghans who live in the FRG?

Najibullah: Today, international opinion, including the opinion of the people of the FRG, more than ever before is ready to accept our national reconciliation. We express profound gratitude to all our German friends who are sincerely defending our resolute cause and who have helped in its explanation. We attach great importance to the movement to defend Afghanistan in West Germany, which is centered around the Afghan-FRG Friendship Society. We want to ask our friends to broadly preach this struggle for our people, this struggle for the realization of national reconciliation.

Our word to the refugees in the FRG is the word of reconciliation, the word of human feelings, and the word of assistance to [words indistinct] to be revived in the country.

Question by the *Unsere Zeit* correspondent: Where does the importance of the new Constitution lie in the national reconciliation policy?

Najibullah: The Constitution, first of all, has created the legal base and defined the political and social borders of the national reconciliation policy. Second, this Constitution guarantees political rights to all social strata, citizens, groups, and parties. The aims of all social strata, groups, and parties in our state could be achieved within the framework of a multiparty democracy. Thus, one of the most important reasons for the internal dispute in Afghanistan—the lack of open possibilities for the opposition to influence state policy—has been eliminated. We say to the opposition: Come now, engage in talks with the popular sovereignty, struggle to gain power within the bounds of the Constitution which has been affirmed by the majority of the people.

Question: What does a multiparty system mean for the PDPA and the future development of Afghanistan?

Najibullah: A multiparty system is the result of a long struggle by the PDPA for the democratization of our political system. Our party abandoned efforts to stabilize a single party system. This sort of effort was a mistake.

The PDPA courageously opened the way for talks about national reconciliation with various political groups. You may find this surprising, but the multiparty system will help the PDPA and will oblige it to compete against other forces and improve its activity both in form and in content.

A multiparty system [words indistinct] for Afghanistan other possibilities are the attraction of various political forces and social strata to the democratic process. The growth of a multiparty system will reduce armed clashes between various interests and as a result will enhance the strength of our society against unstable factors at home and abroad.

Question: How long will the president remain in power? Is there [word indistinct] that in some unforseen circumstances the responsible person in this office will change?

Najibullah: The republic is a new phenomenon in Afghanistan. As is known, the last republic at the time of Da'ud was a presidency with power. From the viewpoint of [word indistinct] this form of (?presidency) is (?due) to complex geographical conditions and to our national and religious composition. It has to eliminate the serious social and economic backwardness and the consequences of the long, undeclared war, and (?thus) it is the most acceptable form. Therefore, it was decided to make the term of the presidency of the Republic of Afghanistan relatively longer.

Now, about the unseen situation that could result in the changing of this or that person: In the political life of most countries this an unknown. But I do not understand why you ask this in connection with Afghanistan. The Grand Assembly unanimously expressed its support in connection with the presidency. Do you have any reason to doubt the correctness of this?

Question: Could you briefly explain the fundamental points of Islam that touch upon the future growth of the national democratic revolution, insofar as they have common interests?

Najibullah: The sacred religion of Islam has been strongly [word indistinct] with the moral, cultural, and social life of the people of Aghanistan. The national democratic revolution of Sowr was also carried out in the interests of our Muslim people. Our party program has a special chapter that answers this question on which principles of struggle for the prosperity of the people of Afghanistan are especially important. They consist of the condemnation of the unjust distribution of material benefits, bribery, and hoarding. We count on the help of religious figures in the struggle against corruption and in the consolidation of ethical norms and justice toward the strengthening of the unity of our society.

Question by journalist from Norway: Will all these reconstructions be implementated by you for the consolidation of the policy of national reconciliation? Najibullah: All the tasks that are going to be accomplished and all those reconstructions—to use your word—are dedicated to the process of national reconciliation [words indistinct]. We act in accordance with the will of the people and in their interests.

Question: Please explain the present gains of the national reconciliation policy.

Najibullah: You are probably well aware of the statistics of the results of national reconciliation. So I will briefly reply as follows:

The fundamental gain is that the people believe in the victory of the forces of peace and they support the policy of national reconciliation. This process, furthermore, is gaining energy. The policy of national reconciliation is grasping allies among our compatriots who live abroad [words indistinct].

Question: You say that approximately 100,000 Afghans have returned to their homes and approximately 30,000 members of armed groups have come over to the side of the government. Do you regard this as your personal victory?

Najibullah: I speak relatively and comparatively. You yourself may judge. During the past 7 years, 37,000 refugees, an average of 5,000 persons annually, returned to the country. However, during the 9 months after the national reconciliation policy was announced, 100,000 refugees returned to the country. In the past 8 years, 12,000 men from armed opposition groups have laid down their weapons and come to the side of revolutionary sovereignty. But during the past 10 months, this figure reached 30,000 men. These are the figures.

If the Pakistani and Iranian authorities had not put up barriers in the way of our compatriots who wished to return to their country, these figures would have been many times larger.

Question: What are the present duties of the Soviet troops in Afghanistan?

Najibullah: You heard yesterday about our approach to the limited Soviet contingent and about our assessment of the Soviet troops' role in defending our homeland.

The duties of Soviet soldiers are to basically safeguard national economic projects, roads, airfields, etc. Our people attach great value to the peace-creating activities of the Soviet soldiers. They directly take part in the transportation and distribution of aid to our most deserving citzens. They assist us in constructing and renovating roads, schools, and hospitals. They give medical treatement to people.

Question: If the Afghan people are weary of war, how can the state strengthen the Armed Forces?

Najibullah: Our Armed Forces are not needed for war and fratricide but for peace and the defense of our freedom. They are the security of national reconciliation. We will strengthen the Armed Forces until the interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs has stopped.

Question: You have said in the past that you will accept all the elements in a future coalition except the unreconciliable enemies of Afghanistan. Which forces are the unreconciliable enemies?

Najibullah: Today, coalition is not a sentence or a slogan, but is a fully real matter. This process continues from bottom to top. I have just mentioned the figures for you. We have opened the doors for everybody. We are ready to cooperate with all those who accept reconciliation. We declared yesterday that we hope the sound of wisdom to [word indistinct] over those who have not laid down arms and who continue the war.

Question by a representative of the Scandinavian press: What do you think about the progress of the multiparty system in Afghanistan? Is there going to be a bourgeoisie party and what role will it play?

Najibullah: I [word indistinct] in this regard that other parties can also be formed. I know that private investors want to form a party.

Question: Is it possible to compare the development strategy of Afghanistan with the development strategy of Mongolia? If we were to compare them, which country's system is similar to Afghanistan's?

Najibullah: I know that usually they compare us to Mongolia. Such a comparison is reasonable. However, there are differences, too. Especially since yesterday, we have our history and we will continue along our path using the laudable experiences of all international communities.

Question by a Norwegian journalist: How many political prisoners are in Pol-e Charkhi prison? Do you plan to free a number of them according to an amnesty decree?

Najibullah: A decree was approved yesterday which will allow around 5,000 prisoners to be freed soon.

Question by a *Le Monde* correspondent: I want to know if His Excellency Najibullah will simultaneously hold the post of general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the country?

Najibullah: You saw yesterday that I was nominated by the National Front and the PDPA. If I avoid the post of general secretary of the PDPA from now on, this would show ingratitude to the party, which has [word indistinct] me such trust. However, this does not mean that I will be selfish toward other parties.

Question by a *New York Times* journalist: What will happen in Afghanistan after the withdrawal of the Soviet troops?

Najibullah: The questioner is right. This question worries every one of us. It causes concern not only to Afghans but also to our friends. Today gives birth to tomorrow. In as far as we today act rationally and decisively, we will yield correspondingly good results tomorrow. Therefore, we can say that we should act with energy and decisiveness without getting agitated or relentless.

We want peace to come to our land as soon as possible. For this purpose we are making and will continue to make every possible effort. The support of all noble people who know the value of peace is needed on this path.

Esteemed representatives of the press, we need your assistance. We speak with the people and governments of other countries to a large extent through you. [passage indistinct]

Question by a Polish journalist: Under what circumstance will you accept the opposition's demand for the creation of a coalition government?

Najibullah: We have often mentioned our stand on this issue. I only want to emphasize that we are ready to courageously and decisively study all proposals and conditions which the opposition personally brings to us. As far as this issue is concerned, we are determined to display extensive flexibility and readiness for serious and multi-faceted compromises for national reconciliation in Afghanistan.

Question: What form of guarantee for noninterference in the affairs of Afghanistan would you regard as suitable? Will UN forces or units of Islamic countries be stationed in Afghanistan? Or is there any other way available?

Najibullah: Our stand on this issue has been considered formally. In regard to this issue, we are following the process of the talks in Geneva.

Noninterference guarantees can and must be secured through international agreements. I want to point out once again that the most sincere guarantee would be national reconciliation. Achieving this would be a strong guarantee for ending the war and for securing noninterference.

As far as UN forces or any other forces are concerned, I must say that at the appropriate time we asked the Soviet Union to dispatch forces to Afghanistan to help us foil foreign interference. So why should we change them for another force? Where is the logic in that?

We have sufficiently consolidated our position in the struggle.

If we reach an international accord regarding noninterference, then we will be able to defend our land independently. We have devised the most suitable policy, national reconciliation. [Words indistinct] there is no other way.

Question by a Polish journalist and a *United Press International* journalist from the United States: Would you swap the Soviet forces for a UN peace-keeping force?

Najibullah: I have already answered this in my reply to the question from the Polish journalist.

Question: Would you extend the unilateral cease-fire for another 6 months?

Najibullah: We have extended the cease-fire until 15 July 1988. Thus, the total period of the cease-fire reaches 1 and 1/2 years. What should be done next the situation will reveal. Everything depends on the activities of the opposition.

Question: Why is the presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan not regarded as interference in the internal affairs of your country? Can this problem not be solved by the Afghans themselves?

Najibullah: The limited units of the Soviet Union are in our country at the request of Afghanistan's leadership. So how can this be interference? The military power of Afghanistan's Armed Forces has grown. We think that they are able to defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our country.

Question: When will the Soviet forces leave your country?

Najibullah: In my speech at the Grand Assembly yesterday, I mentioned the existing agreement between Afghanistan and the Soviet leadership concerning the return of Soviet forces within a period of 12 months. This proposal will be presented at the Geneva talks. The objective is to stop interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and to obtain guarantees for continued noninterference.

Question by a Canadian journalist: The minister of Islamic affairs on Wednesday said that there can be 3, 4, or 10 candidates for the presidency. He added that this should be in [word indistinct] of the people. How can the people express their views when they do not know whom to elect?

Najibullah: As you know, the political parties and the National Front, in accordance with the law, have the right to propose their candidate for the presidency. At present [words indistinct] and the National Front use their right and propose their candidates. Other registered parties and organizations did not consider it necessary to use this right and did not propose their candidate for the presidency. I must emphasize that proposing one candidate for the presidency is completely in conformity with our historic tradition.

As far as the second part of your question is concerned, you can find the answer in the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan. It is mentioned there that the Grand Assembly is the high manifestation of the will of the people of Afghansitan and only the Grand Assembly has the power to elect and to accept [word indistinct] of the president.

Question by AFP reporter and *Le Monde* correspondent: You have raised [words indistinct] about the fate of Guillo, a French journalist who illegally entered Afghanistan in the company of a terrorist group that was engaged in subversive action in Faryab Province and was captured.

Najibullah: The French journalist accused of illegal entry with a terrorist and extremist group was captured in Faryab Province during their subversive operations. This journalist is now under investigation by the relevant organs, in accordance with the laws of the Republic of Afghanistan. As to why permission has not been given to the French charge d'affaires and two other French journalists to visit him, I must say that the process of investigation has not yet been completed. After the investigation has been completed, they will surely be able to visit him. As for when he will be put on trial, that depends on the investigation process.

Question: From an Afghan journalist: What will be the nature of the country's economic strategy and program under the new Constitution and the policy of national reconciliation?

Najibullah: I replied to this question in my speech delivered to the Grand Assembly, and I will briefly repeat it.

We will concentrate on the backwardness of the country. We will work to bring about a powerful and independent economy. All the economic foundations will be broadened. We will build the economic foundations for improving the living standards of peasants, workers, tradesmen, intelligentsia, and all the people. We will provide broad possibilities for private investors. The producers will be the focus of our attention. On the basis of consolidating the national economy, we will design a program for the welfare of the people. We will build more residential housing, schools, and hospitals. In our

program, measures are envisaged to prevent inflation, and to reduce prices. As far as foreign economic contacts are concerned, they will be expanded on the basis of their usefulness.

Question from an Afghan journalist: How would you determine the rights and reciprocal relations of the state with political parties?

Najibullah: Please read the law which was specifically approved on this point—the parties and political organizations law—and the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan. All these things have been explained there.

Question from a Radio Moscow reporter: Esteemed Mr President, 4 days from now will be the ninth anniversary of the Afghan-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Good-Neighborliness. Please tell us what the importance of this treaty is in the new circumstances of national reconciliation and the implementation of this policy?

Najibullah: The anniversary of the treaty of cooperation and friendship between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union will be marked here. We can say clearly that this friendship and cooperation are the fundamental pillar and foundation for the realization of the policy of national reconciliation. This friendship and cooperation is an effective and accelerating factor in implementating the national reconciliation policy. As Comrade Gorbachev said in his interview yesterday with the NBC reporter, this friendship and cooperation is and will always be strong.

Question by a reporter from West German television: After the resignation of Babrak Karmal, it was thought that, within the framework of the policy of national reconciliation, the new president would be a (?well-known) figure who would have the confidence of all the people. Even Zahir Shah was mentioned. Why did you change your opinion and take this position yourself?

Najibullah: You should not substitute your presumptions for the truth and facts. Yesterday you saw with your own eyes that the responsible delegates of all strata, classes, and groups of the people of Afghanistan—through their elected representatives, who were, as we say, handpicked by the people—with one voice unanimously elected the president. Let us respect the decision of the people.

Question by a *Reuter* correspondent: Esteemed Mr President, the question has been raised about the departure of your brother from the country. What do you say about this?

Najibullah: What do you think? Does this fact not display a democratic approach in our society and country? But, in any event he, Sediqullah, cut his relations with his home and with his father and mother 15 years ago. Now he has decided to say goodbye to his ancestral home, to his homeland, and to abandon it. Time will show who he was, is, and will be.

Question: Would you explain about Asmat Muslim and the incident which occured yesterday in Kabul?

Najibullah: On the day the Grand Assembly was convened, you heard the sound of firing in Kabul. It was blind and meaningless firing, the futile efforts of extremists to disrupt the clean and pure atmosphere of the Grand Assembly.

There was another incident yesterday caused by Asmat Muslim. You all know Asmat Muslim. Unfortunately he is sick. He goes to extremes in using narcotic substances and alcoholic, which have caused his illness. A while ago he was under treatment. Now his illness is acute and the seriousness of his illness caused the incident. He is now in the hospital. Meanwhile, instructions have been given for judicial and legal investigations concerning the situation.

The following are some of the verbal questions posed by foreign journalists:

Question by a BBC reporter: Would you explain when the start of the Soviet troops withdrawal from Afghanistan will be?

Najibullah: I already explained to you that the actual return of the limited units of the Soviet Union has begun. You saw that last year a detachment of them returned to their homeland. At this very moment, there are no forces of the limited Soviet Union contingents in 13 provinces of this country. (?This means) that the units in those provinces where the situation has become favorable have returned and this process is continuing.

Question from *The Times of London*: Mr President, how do you assess the forthcoming meeting between the leaders of the United States and the Soviet Union?

Najibullah: In connection with this point I said yesterday in the Grand Assembly that I am optimistic about the forthcoming meetings between M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Ronald Reagan, President of the United States.

As far as the stand of the Soviet Union is concerned, Comrade Gorbachev, in his interview yesterday with the NBC correspondent, clearly explained his position. This also depends on the goodwill of the opposite side, the United States.

Question by Baha Sherin from Pashtunistan: You have proposed to the Grand Assembly that a committee should be formed and sent to Pakistan. Will this committee meet with the leaders of the opposition, of armed groups, or with the military Government of Pakistan?

Najibullah: The committee which it was decided yesterday should be formed will go to [word indistinct] and will take action concerning the problem of [word indistinct].

Question by a *United Press International* correspondent: During the 2 days of the Grand Assembly (?we heard firing noises) of rockets and other (?heavy weapons). (?What do you think about) the general security situation and the security (?of the people) after the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghansitan?

Najibullah: As far as the first part of your question is concerned, I have already commented on the two incidents. As to the second part of your question, I can say with confidence that in the event that armed interference from abroad ceases, our Armed Forces are capable of maintaining security in the country. You were in the Grand Assembly the first day when missiles and rockets were fired. There were no injuries. In other words, the shells did not hit their target. However, concerning the second incident, I must say clearly that a limited number of people were killed or injured.

Question by a correspondent of [London's] *The Independent*: Will General Muslim be punished because of the attack on the security forces? After the release of 2,000 prisoners, how many more political prisoners remain in jail?

Najibullah: I have already replied to the first part of your question that an instruction has been issued concerning the political investigation of this issue.

As far as the second part of your question is concerned, as I have said, more than 5,000 prisoners will be released from prison by decree, and less than 5,000 prisoners will remain in prison.

Question by a Canadian correspondent: You said in your talk that there will be no need for UN forces and that you will not accept them under the circumstances of successfully implementing national reconciliation. As part of the political solution of events in Afghanistan, and at a time when talks continue between the leaders of the Soviet Union and the United States, what kind of force would you accept for the security of the country?

Najibullah: The Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan is sufficient in the event of a successful implementation of the policy of national reconciliation and a cessation of aggression and interference from abroad, as I mentioned earlier.

Question by a correspondent of CDIS [expansion unknown]: In the event the opposition does not accept the program of the policy of national reconciliation, will you still continue the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan and the reduction of the timetable.

Najibullah: I mentioned to you earlier that the return of the limited contingents of the Soviet Union is provided for as part of the four items on the agenda at the Geneva talks, which include the issue of noninterference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and guarantees for the nonrepetition of this interference. These documents are almost finalized. Once the interference and aggression from abroad is stopped and a guarantee of nonrepetition is obtained, the extremist opposition forces will not be able to continue war and bloodhsed.

Question by a London *The Times* representative: What changes occurred in the situation that made you able to reduce the timetable for the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from 16 months to 12 months? Can you envisage that you will further (?reduce) this period?

Najibullah: Merely for the sake of honesty in our words and actions we said and we are in favor of the return of the limited contingents of the Soviet Union to their peace-creating country. We will arrange all conditions so that these contingents can return. But let us ask this question from the opposite side: When we show our goodwill in this respect, Pakistan, the United States, and other forces must also show their goodwill and determination concerning its acceleration and providing conditions for the return of the limited military contingents of the Soviet Union.

Insofar as it is relevant to the reduction of this period, we mentioned certain conditions concerning this issue in the Grand Assembly yesterday.

Esteemed Najibullah said at the end of the news conference:

Thank you for attending. In 6 months, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, elections for the parliament or National Assembly will take place. For the first time, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, the National Assembly will be discharging duties instead of the Revolutionary Council, and the convocation of parliament may well be of interest to you. I invite you, if you have time, to cover this national gathering as well. Thank you.

2,300 Prisoners Freed; Amnesty Continues

LD061724 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Excerpts] In accordance with the amnesty decree of the Office of the President of Afghanistan dated 29 November, 2,300 of the prisoners included in the amnesty were released today from the Pol-e Charkhi central prison.

A BIA military correspondent reported that at the opening ceremony a few verses from the holy Koran were recited, and then the prisoners took part in a meeting. [passage omitted]

According to another report, as a result of a presidential decree, 94 prisoners were released from Jalalabad prison today. The report adds that the release of prisoners throughout the country is continuing.

Protest Made to Pakistan Over Border Incidents
LD051646 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] The Pakistan charge in Kabul was summoned this afternoon to the Foreign Ministry where the following protest note was handed to him by the director of the First Political Department:

According to our information, Pakistani military forces on 3, 4, and 5 December fired surface-to-surface missiles at security posts and government installations in the Republic of Afghanistan from a distance of 1 km from Towr Kham, causing heavy losses.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan lodges a strong protest with the Government of Pakistan because of these attacks and asks the relevant authorities in Pakistan to avoid repetition of such irresponsible actions, which bring about nothing except intensification of the situation. Otherwise, the responsibility for dangerous consequences of such actions will rest on the Pakistani authorities.

Government Troops Prepare To Retake Khowst
BK061130 Hong Kong AFP in English 1104 GMT 6 Dec 87

[By Gilles Bertin]

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 6 (AFP)—Soviet-backed Afghan troops are attempting to recapture mountain roads held by Afghan rebels since 1980 in a bid to break the mujahidin siege of Khowst, said a French senator just back from the area.

The battle for Khowst, situated 180 kilometers (115 miles) south of Kabul, has been raging for three weeks, creating starvation among the city's 40,000 residents, said Jacques Golliet in an interview Saturday.

Mr. Golliet, 57, from the French Senate's Foreign Affairs and Defense Commission, was in Afghanistan in a private capacity November 7-30. It was the first visit by a French senator to the embattled country where some 120,000 Soviet troops have been stationed since 1979.

"The mountain roads are mined," said the senator, who had travelled by foot and car with guerrillas commanded by Jallaludin Haqani of the moderate Hezb-e Eslami Khalis group.

"The mujahidin seem confident.... They have (U.S.-made ground-to-air) Stinger missiles. I did not see any helicopters, but only rather inaccurate high-altitude bombing during the day," he said.

He said people were starving inside Khowst which was being held by "sizeable forces of the Afghan Army and Soviet advisors."

Located in a valley surrounded by mountains in Paktia Province, 30 kilometers (18 miles) from the Pakistan border, Khowst was usually supplied by aircraft—one of which Mr. Golliet reported hearing one night, landing and taking off.

He said Afghan and Soviet troops in Gardeyz, a garrison town between Kabul and Khowst, wanted to reopen the mountain road that links the two cities.

"A deserter from the Afghan Army confirmed that tanks were assembling near Gardeyz with Afghan troops in front and Russians at the rear," he said.

Some charred remains of tanks destroyed by the mujahidin in 1979 can still be seen along roads in the 3,000-metre (9,900-feet) mountains that have been under rebel control, Mr. Golliet said.

Captured tanks are cannibalized by the rebels for parts. In one mosque he visited, the senator saw a tank turrent being used as a stove, and other parts as water heaters. To repel the Afghan troops, the guerrillas were bringing in re-enforcements from their rear bases in the Miram Shah region in Pakistan.

"Columns of horses loaded with heavy material and numerous mujahidin coming from Pakistan arrive at night in the Khowst region," said Mr. Golliet, who estimated that there were 5,000 rebels in the mountains around Khowst.

"More than 5,000 other Afghan rebels are going towards Gardeyz" to stop the advancing government soldiers, he added.

"The mujahidin are united in this operation. The Afghans will not open the road to Khowst. The convoys will not make it to the end. If Khowst surrenders, it would be a big psychological victory," the senator said.

Mujahidin Rule Out Coalition With 'Communists'
BK061200 Hong Kong AFP in English 1148 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 6 (AFP)—The seven-party Afghan resistance alliance Sunday ruled out any possibility of forming a coalition government with the ruling communist party.

"We can not accept any communist participation in the future Afghan set-up," alliance chief Mawlawi Muhammed Yunis Khalis told *Agence France-Presse* in a telephone call from Peshawar.

Pakistani President Muhammed Ziaul Haq Tuesday suggested the formation of a tripartite government in Afghanistan once the Soviets pull out their estimated 115,000 troops from that country.

In an interview with *The Wall Street Journal* Tuesday, President Ziaul Haq proposed a coalition government comprising the Afghan rebels waging an eight-year-old war against the communist regime, Afghan refugees and the communists.

"We cannot force others to accept our opinion," Mr. Khalis told AFP. "But our position remains unchanged... We cannot compromise with the communists at the cost of our martyrs' blood."

Correction to Text of Approved Constitution

This correction pertains to the item headlined "Text of Constitution Approved at Grand Assembly," published in the 4 December Near East & South Asia *Daily Report*, on pages 47-57:

Page 57, first column, last paragraph, last sentence ends: ...of the president. [For a comparison of the text of the approved version of the Constitution with the text of the draft constitution, please refer to the 21 July Near East & South Asia *Daily Report*, page P 1.] (adding editorial notation)

Bangladesh

Awami League Votes To Quit Parliament

BK041522 Hong Kong AFP in English 1509 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 4 (AFP)—The Presidium of the Awami League, Bangladesh's leading opposition group, announced Friday it had voted for the resignation of its 75 MP's, diplomatic sources here said.

The decision, made in the absence of Awami League leader Sheikh Hasina who was under house arrest, was passed unanimously by the eight members of the 14-seat Presidium present at a meeting earlier in the day, the sources said. The vote came following three days of secret meetings, they said.

Sources said the result of the ballot would be passed on to Sheikh Hasina by party Secretary General Sajeda Chowdhury.

A source close to Sheikh Hasina said he was surprised by the speed with which the decision was made.

"Sheikh Hasina is not hostile to the resignation of the members of parliament...The moment has come," he said.

"However it is a decision that she cannot make while she is under house arrest and while she is not free."

It was not known if the decision was final or if it had to be ratified by the party president.

The decision was made one day after a similar measure was adopted by the right-wing Jamiat-i Islami Party, which announced the resignation of six MP's.

Some Educational Institutions To Reopen 5 Dec

BK041556 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] All educational institutions throughout the country, except colleges and universities, will reopen tomorrow, it has been officially announced in Dhaka.

Curfew Reimposed in Metropolitan Areas

BK061620 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] Curfew is being reimposed from 2200 [1600 GMT] tonight to 0600 tomorrow morning in the metropolitan areas of Dhaka, Chittagong, and Khulna and Rajshahi and Narayanganj towns. There will no curfew from 0600 tomorrow morning to 2200 tomorrow night in those areas. The industrial areas of Demra, Patulla, and Adamji in Dhaka and Narayanganj and the (Posda Hat) industrial area in Chittagong have been exempted from curfew.

Elections to Local Councils Set for 7 Feb

BK061556 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] The Election Commission has announced the date of election to the Union Parishad [council] in the country. In a press release issued in Dhaka today, the commission said the elections will begin on 7 February next. Detailed schedule of the elections will be announced in due course. It said the tenure of the existing Union Parishad expires on the 31st of this month according to the provisions of the Local Government Union Parishad Ordinance 1983 as amended by another ordinance on the 19th of last month.

President Ershad Dissolves Parliament

BK070138 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] President Ershad has dissolved the Jatiya Sangsad [parliament]. An official announcement in Dhaka last night said the president took the action in accordance with the powers conferred upon him by Article 72-1 of the Constitution. The third Jatiya Sangsad dissolved last night was elected on 7 May last year. The Sangsad had 300 elected members and according to a provision of the Constitution, 30 women members were elected to the house later.

India

Spokesman Assails U.S. Senate Recommendation

BK041626 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] India has described the substance and focus of the recommendations of the U.S. Senate Foreign Operation Subcommittee for Appropriation as totally misplaced. Responding to queries by newsmen, a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi today that the recommendations are based on untenable premises of equating India's open and peaceful nuclear program with Pakistan's covert efforts to acquire nuclear weapon capability.

Reiterating India's opposition to proliferation of nuclear weapons, the spokesman said India's stand on nonproliferation of nuclear weapons has been consistent. He said India has unilaterally chosen to utilize its nuclear program for peaceful purposes only. He recalled that the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, had categorically stated in Washington that India has no program of procuring nuclear weapons unless constrained to do so.

The spokesman said New Delhi has not accepted nor does it intend to accept safeguards on all its peaceful nuclear activities unless a regime of international safeguards is applied uniformly and without discrimination to all nuclear activities in all the countries. He said it is because such a regime has not been devised that India did not sign the treaty, which is clearly discriminatory. He said NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] legitimizes possession of nuclear weapons by a few countries. In our view, the proliferation of nuclear weapons is a global issue and not a regional one.

The spokesman said the Senate subcommittee's recommendations are focused against the South Asian subregion. By implication it condones the proliferations in West Asia, South America, Latin America, and in the NATO alliance countries. The recommendations, he said, appeared to give Pakistan an alibi to continue with nonpeaceful dimensions of its nuclear program.

Commentary Examines Border Talks With China

BK041347 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Commentary by Sunil Roy]

[Text] Last month's India-China official talks to settle the complex border dispute left behind a trail of constructive thinking on the long standing issue. The eighth round of talks may not have produced anything concrete but the very fact that the meeting was held in New Delhi in a relaxed atmosphere as compared to the previous one in Beijing, is an achievement by itself. To demonstrate its eagerness to settle the border dispute that had bedeviled relations with China for more than the quarter of a century, India has now set the ball rolling in preparation for a new phase of dialogue. An intention has been expressed and said by either side to raise the dialogue to a political level. How soon the level of talks could be upgraded is not the central point of the 6-year-old negotiations. At the heart of the talks the question is whether the settlement of the border dispute could be equitable based on a national consensus.

In India, the border conflict with China has a strong emotional ring attached to it. For it was in October 1962 China chose to settle the issue through an open war humbling India at the inaccessible heights of the Himalayas where perennial snow-clad mountains dominate the horizon.

An occasion to appraise the Consultative Committee members of Parliament on the November round of talks came on Wednesday. For the government it was important that the members of the committee, many of them specialists on foreign affairs, are kept informed of the pace of India-China talks.

The Indian parliamentary system patterned after the Westminster model acts as a mirror of public opinion in the country. There is no scope for predetermining the course of any national issue in a rigid ideological mold. As such, no forum could have been more appropriate for the government than the Consultative Committee of Parliament to toss the border issue before it for a fresh appraisal.

The need for a national consensus to work out an appropriate strategy for a possible political solution of the border dispute was suggested by an opposition member. But he cautioned the Consultative Committee about the resolution passed by the Indian Parliament in 1962 after the Chinese aggression, calling upon the government not to cede an inch of Indian territory. At a similar meeting of the Consultative Committee held in mid-1980, members belonging to all shades of political opinion asked the government to move cautiously and warily on the border question. At that time there was no immediate prospect of holding border talks, which, however, began in Beijing 18 months later on 10 December 1981.

In the past, China's approach to the settlement of the border question was governed by extraneous factors at the global and regional perception. On the face of it China now appears to be isolating the border question from such considerations. The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, told the Consultative Committee that there could be no instant solution to the border problem. But he affirmed that any solution would have to be considered equitable not only by the governments of the two countries but also by the people. Mr Gandhi's remarks on the necessity of the people of the two countries also finding the solution to be equitable assume significance. It opens a new vista in the otherwise stalemated talks that had taken into consideration all aspects of the dispute.

China is opposed to recognize the agreement on the McMahon line, which was initialed by the representatives of China, Britain, and Tibet in 1914. Interestingly, China settled the border question with Burma in 1961 on the basis of the McMahon line. Until the mid-30's, Burma was part of India and India became independent in 1947.

Two important things emerged from the discussions at the Consultative Committee. One was a broad agreement among members of Parliament belonging to various political parties that the intention to upgrade the talks to the political level was welcome. Simultaneously, an appropriate strategy needed to be evolved for a national consensus. India has not been averse to settle the boundary dispute with China. Even when China was using sharp language following the Sumdorong Chu incident in the eastern sector last year and in subsequent events, India was using the language of reason asserting that India is not seeking confrontation on the border issue.

Alert Sounded in Haryana Following Blast

BK070512 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0435 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] In Haryana, three persons were killed and four others injured in a detonator blast in village Nangle Chowdhury in Mahendergarh District yesterday. Investigations are in progress.

The director general of police, Mr H.R. Swant, told our Chandigarh correspondent that circumstantial evidence shows the blast cannot be a handiwork of terrorists. However, the police have taken all precautions. An alert has been sounded in the state.

Iran

REUTER Cited on Missile Attack Near Kuwait

LD071107 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] The Central News Unit, citing *Reuter*, reports that the Kuwaiti Defense Ministry today announced that a missile was fired at Kuwait's territorial waters. News sources announced that this missile hit a floating platform that was placed at U.S. disposal by Kuwait. *Reuter* adds that the people of Kuwait heard the terrifying sound of an explosion.

The Kuwaiti Defense Ministry issued a statement carried by that country's news agency. The statement says: The missile exploded in the southern territorial waters of Kuwait at 0753. Shipping sources in the Persian Gulf reported that the missile hit a barge sailing approximately 1 mile away from the important Sea Island oil terminal.

Radio Cites REUTER on Danish Tanker Attack

LD061102 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] According to a *Reuter* report, shipping sources in the region have said that this morning an oil tanker, flying the Danish flag, was attacked in southern Persian Gulf waters.

According to this report, a helicopter crashed while trying to land on the deck of the Danish oil tanker and was destroyed.

The (Aerogulf) Company in Dubai has also confirmed that one of its helicopters crashed while trying to land on the ship's deck.

The Danish oil tanker *Estelle Maersk*, whose name was previously reported as (?*Estelle Lammerk*), was laden with oil. She had sailed from the port of Jubayl, in Hijaz, on Friday. She was attacked 12 miles from the UAE coast.

1 Seaman Killed

NC060752 Paris AFP in English 0745 GMT
6 Dec 87

[Text] Manama, Dec 6 (AFP)—A seaman was killed and another seriously injured early Sunday when an Iranian gunboat sprayed with fire the Danish-owned oil tanker *Estelle Maersk* in the southern Gulf, an independent maritime source said.

The tanker was attacked at 3.40 a.m. (0040 GMT) when it was off the United Arab Emirate of Dubayy, the source added. The nationality of the two seamen was not known.

The *Estelle Maersk* is currently anchored 1.6 nautical miles (1.8 statute miles) off Dubayy, the source added.

Gunboats Reportedly Hit Singaporean Tanker

NC061158 Paris AFP in English 1137 GMT
6 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Manama, Dec 6 (AFP)—Iranian gunboats Sunday fired on a Singapore-registered tanker following a similar early morning raid against a Danish vessel, which claimed one life, regional maritime sources said.

They said the 89,125-ton Singapore tanker "*Norman Atlantic*" was hit and set ablaze at 12.45 p.m. (0945 GMT) in the southern Gulf near the Strait of Hormuz. It was not immediately clear if there were casualties in the latest attack. [passage omitted]

Tehran Reports Attack

LD062329 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] *Reuter*, quoting shipping sources, reports: A Singapore-flagged oil tanker was attacked today as it sailed into the Strait of Hormuz and was set on fire. According to this report, the 705,129-ton [as heard] *Norman Atlantic* oil tanker was attacked by speedboats as it was passing through the Strait of Hormuz. This is the second tanker to be attacked in the Persian Gulf today.

Musavi-Ardabili Gives Friday Prayers Sermons

First Sermon on Gulf Situation

LD042223 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1531 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Friday prayers sermon delivered by Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili, president of the Supreme Judicial Council, in Tehran on 4 December—recorded]

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, at this point we invite you to listen to this week's Friday prayers sermons by Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. O God's servants, be pious and you will be saved. [Koranic verse] According to established rules of Islam, only a life of virtue and piety is worthwhile. [passage omitted emphasizing the importance of being pious]

The laws and regulations that a human being needs do not come from nature. Nature sometimes does present man with a complete scheme: The sea gives fish to man and nature; skies and the air give him birds; springs give him water; forests give him fruit. However, not all man's needs are found in nature as complete and usable products. One must make an effort to find them. These are not the sort of things that foreigners should provide. Governments, churches, charity organizations, sister [words indistinct] and other temporal institutions try to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, run the affairs of the poor.

International associations launch propaganda campaigns about their work. Of course, sometimes alongside other things, these associations do succeed in doing useful, although minor, work. This happens, and we do not wish to reject everything. However, why is it that these associations, especially those in the United States, Europe, and elsewhere achieve more in other ways? They receive more than they give; they do more harm than good. There is no doubt that a healthy society, a healthy nation, a healthy ummah, should work for its own security, economy, wealth, for the things it needs. These should be the fruits of its own labor. [passage omitted]

There are those who think they can remain dependent on others, that their lives and their country can remain dependent on others. They expect others to take care of their security, economy, wealth, society, and country. There is no one more unfortunate than such a person. For instance, Kuwait is following a crooked path. It has put its airspace at Saddam's disposal; it has put all its facilities at Saddam's disposal. In this destructive and unjustified war, contrary to all humane, scientific, moral, ideological and Islamic principles, Kuwait has taken the side of an oppressor and a criminal. Moreover, on the pretext that its security is threatened and that it can not sell its oil, on the pretext of having a powerful neighbor, Kuwait has accepted the disgrace and shame of flying another country's flag. The amazing thing is that it is customary to receive money if you serve someone, but Kuwait is serving others and paying them. Kuwait is paying others to accept it as a servant.

Now, it has brought another discrace on itself. Kuwait is saying: I am your servant, I will fly your flag, here is my money, I am even willing to put a floating base at your disposal. However, at first Kuwait said that it could only provide one floating base, situated in the international waters, for their use. Yet, the United States said: This servant of ours is lying and is trying to be crafty. We want two bases situated within their territorial waters. Who knows, Kuwait might even put land bases at their disposal as well. In fact, Kuwait will definitely do so. There is no limit to subservience.

Such an act is done in response to our proposal. We asked all the Persian Gulf littoral states to contribute to ensuring the security of the Persian Gulf. We said: Let us close the door on those who come to the region from the other side of the world, those who have come to receive money, be served, and to be given bases; close the door on them. Kuwait did not accept this proposal, it does not accept good-neighborly relations based on fairness. However, it accepts serving the Americans and giving them money and bases. If these people think that Iran will think twice before attacking these same bases because of the U.S. presence—although it might be in Iran's interest—they should know that Iran will never hesitate. [chants] These bases can be on land or at sea, one or several, in territorial waters or in international waters. Iran has decided not to give in to forceful measures and bullying tactics and to resist to the death. This is one of the principles of the Islamic Revolution that will not be undermined. Now, they might think that the presence of their bases, be they on land or in the sea, would encourage them to risk attacking a corner. However, we think that the United States is wise and will realize that attacking a revolutionary country, a country in love with martyrdom, will cost a lot. It will be (?risky). It is not like going to bed one night and attacking an island the next day.

When Saddam was stuck in the mud, the United States came to his rescue. Who will rescue the United States when it gets stuck? Saddam has repeatedly said that he made a mistake. Can the United States say such a thing? It seems unlikely. This nation's presence, its alertness and presence in the arena, was displayed before the

world last week. With much enthusiasm crowds gathered and mosques, prayer areas, squares, stadiums, and streets proved to be too small to hold the crowds. [passage omitted]

Where else in the world can you see people, having long carried the heavy burden of war, responding so well to a call to show their readiness, to vote, and to express their views. May God silence those who say the people have tired of the war. In their path to freedom, independence, and full implementation of Islam, people are not tired and will never tire. [chants]

Ever since the day these international criminals, these carnivores, arrived in the Persian Gulf and concentrated their forces, using their propaganda machine to threaten and intimidate a warstriken and weary nation and rouse it, an emotion was revived in the nation almost automatically and without preemption. They thought the boss is here himself, let us see what he has to say. Thus, our situation drastically changed. This emotion was not very strong until the Persian Gulf developments during the exercises last week, and the dispatch of the "Mohammed, Peace Be Upon Him" forces to the fronts. Those scenes were unprecedented. They were not limited to one point, one province, one center, or one district—all over the country, north, south, east, and west—men and women took part. [passage omitted]

The world is watching us. The world is trying to fathom us in order to (?correct) its relations with us. It has taken some time for the proverbial shoe to drop, it should have dropped earlier. Now they are beginning to understand us. You see how France is trying to improve its relations with us. Why? Because it was France. We showered their embassy with flowers, as the imam was once their guest. At the airport we provided excellent facilities. [as heard] However, they blocked our money, they blocked payments of our rightful loan. They gave unreserved quantites of weapons to our aggressive enemy and did not even give us defensive weapons. France housed our internal enemies and allowed them to be active against us there. France even followed the United States into the Persian Gulf. Now it has begun to think: Why should it oppose revolutionary Iran? What benefits has it reaped so far? What benefit has it received from the embassy war? Now it is reconsidering relations with us. We have no objections. We have repeatedly announced that we want security, peace, and friendship on the basis of justice in the world. We will not give in to bullying tactics. [passage omitted]

As soon as the world realized that France was reconsidering its relations, it began pressuring France. Regarding Mrs Thatcher and the United States: One asks about one thing, one asks about hostages, the other asks about the Gulf, and so on. I tell you, we think these countries are independent of each other but in fact their [words indistinct] are tied to each other. In any case, how come the countries that opposed us are now thinking about reconsidering their relations? Is it because of anything but your presence on the front? Is it because of anything but your impeneterable and uncompromising nature? [passage omitted]

Second Sermon on Shrines, War

LD042309 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1611 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Friday prayers sermon delivered by Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili, president of the Supreme Judicial Council, in Tehran on 4 December—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [Koranic verses omitted] I shall review several of the week's events with you. One is the seminar staged last week in Tehran, thanks to our dear brothers and respected officials, on the sanctity of the holy places and their administration. I did not have the good fortune to participate in this seminar, but I have heard, thanks be to God, that it was very fruitful and informative. It had a very fine aim, and we consider this aim...[sentence left incomplete] Even if the tragedy of Mecca and the killings at Mecca had not occurred, we would still have had this aim. What that incident did was to clarify, help, and elucidate. We had to tell people about it using logic and reason, but it (?exposed) the issue. This is not a complex mathematical problem that only a few can grasp—Mecca and Al-Madinah are parts of our principles and those of all Muslims. It may be that from the jurisprudents and nonjurisprudents' positions, there are some differences among Muslims. However, can it be possible that the centers that are the focus of the people's prayers, the places of worship of the people, the place of the people's pilgrimage, and the symbol of their religion—and people have to go there—can it be possible that one day the house of the Hashemite should come and say one thing, that is, that things should be done in accordance with what they think, and another day the filthy house of Al Sa'ud should come and say another thing and that the people are obliged to act accordingly? Is is possible that on yet another day, another house should come from some hell-hole or other and say yet a different thing? How could this be? These holy shrines do not belong to one group or sect. [passage omitted]

Then there was the seminar concerning the movements. That, too, was an informative, good, and necessary seminar. We thank all the dear brothers who made efforts in these areas and we appreciate their assistance.

Now some remarks about the war. Thanks be to God, they got in touch with me from the fronts. I asked: What is the situation? Have you anything to tell me? The news that came to us from the fronts is that the situation is very good. They said: Our situation is very good; there have been some recent developments. Morale is rising and our dear fighters have become more prepared. The enemy is experiencing some problems. We hope that news of this reaches you and that the mass media publicize it. They said they need the same things that I

have already mentioned. They need people to register their names, to be trained, to be absorbed into the Guards' forces so that they may preserve this continuity. Our Islamic Revolution Guards Corps is ready and, God willing, it will even be more ready to raise the potential for the recruiting of forces through this enthusiastic support given of the people.

I have written a note to remind me to discuss the economic struggle, which I will now do. The economic struggle was and is very good. There has been a great deal of help. However, I must make one small point: There is a group of people, the majority in the country, who have borne the heavy load of the war since its outbreak. They have given martyrs. They bring all they have and donate it to the war. [passage omitted] There is a minority—1 percent, half a percent, 2 percent—in this country. If we are not mistaken, we feel that either they do not feel responsible or they feel less responsible than the others. This is not fair, humane, or Islamic. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Interviewed on Mobilization

LD041454 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Excerpts] At the end of the great millions-strong maneuvers of the Mobilization Forces, called the maneuvers of the Corps of Mohammad—may God's salutations and benedictions be upon him and his scion—members of the Qods Headquarters of the IRGC Central Staff met with President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, and presented him with a detailed report on the maneuvers held all over the country. We begin our news reports with an interview granted by Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i to our colleague at the end of this meeting.

About the outcome of this meeting, the chairman of the Supreme War Support Council said:

[Begin recording] [Khamene'i] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The brothers from the Qods Headquarters gave a report last night on the maneuvers over the past several days, which took place all over the country and everywhere received the warm and sincere enthusiasm of the people. They also gave the details of their future programs, which are planned to follow these maneuvers. [passage omitted paying tribute to the people for their participation] Our main plan now is to register names for allocating rotations. This task begins tomorrow, that is, Saturday, 5 December. After 5 December, which I think will coincide with dispatch week and the week of allocating rotations as announced by the IRGC, people will register in the centers announced by the corps. In these centers our brothers will take down names and issue a number to each individual. For some strata, special centers have opened, for instance, doctors, university students, and lecturers should present themselves in the special places allocated to them. [passage omitted]

I believe that this initiative is the most effective weapon for the war. As we have repeatedly said in the past, we need to deliver blows whenever conditions dictate. This requires sufficient forces in every sector of the front at all times. This initiative will in fact serve this purpose. This is a way of preparing reserve forces to be deployed when the need arises. This will enable the war authorities to deliver repeated blows; and the policy of delivering repeated blows, which we have adopted at this jucture of war, will be implemented by this initiative. This is the best thing we can do for the war. In a war, the enemy should not be given a chance to rebuild regroup, or reinforce its forces, or to resort to possible conspiracies. This initiative serves that purpose.

About the regional policy, we think that today both the superpowers and the reactionaries have concentrated their regional policy around the war axis. Any progress in the war will, therefore, have significant and destiny-making influence on the region's policy. Through our initiative, we have in fact moved a step further toward achieving regional security. We are moving toward tranquility in the region. Thanks to the biased measures of some Persian Gulf littoral states and the crafty interventions of the United States and some other countries, this war is to some extent coming out of being a state of a war between two sides. They want to spread it. However, this is not our policy. We do not wish to spread this war into other countries. The sooner the fate of this war is determined and the sooner we can bring this war to a desirable conclusion, the sooner and better a general crisis will be prevented.

[Correspondent] In the wake of the people's extensive presence on the front, will the international organizations abandon their diplomatic moves? To what extent, in your opinion, can these diplomatic moves be beneficial to us?

[Khamene'i] Diplomatic efforts have their own place. These efforts do not run counter to military operations; one does not negate the other. From the start of the war we were also involved in diplomatic activities. You see, if we were to carry out our military task without any diplomatic moves, our publicity would be very small [as heard], albeit a successful military operation would have the highest influence in the progress of diplomatic activities. That is, when we are successful in a military action, diplomatic work can be achieved much more quickly and easily. However, without any diplomatic work, the military action will not have its desired effect and influence. From the start of the war, we have been active on both the military and diplomatic fronts. Our people witnessed that at the beginning of the war, some figures came to our country as mediators or individuals seeking an end to the war. Whenever we deemed it necessary, we also dispatched delegations all over the globe to inform world public opinion, politicians, and particularly our friends, of events. We also did this in order to prevent our political enemies from publicizing their biased ideas.

We have carried out very extensive and effective diplomatic work in connection with the United Nations and other international forums and also in connection with our friends and other countries. We will still follow issues raised in the United Nations. You asked how much hope we have for progress: We have very little. We have voiced our logical and acceptable request. In fact, we have shown the way for effective diplomatic efforts. We have presented this to the political forums of the world, to the United Nations, to the secretary general, and to everyone who thinks that this problem can be solved by diplomatic means.

We have said that success in solving this problem by diplomatic means depends on the punishment of the side that started this war and stoked the fire of this sedition. (?They) have placed another step before this and that is to concentrate efforts on determining who started the war. We said there that you know who started the war, and you have often told us this. Everyone has said this. So far, I do not remember that any of the delegations, government officials, heads of state, or any political representatives who held talks with us on the war have denied that Iraq started the war. They stated this in private meetings and some of them even in public sessions. [passage omitted]

We think it is highly unlikely that diplomatic efforts will have any success because the United Nations and the secretary general are subjected to political pressure from the United States and some other arrogant powers. They will not be permitted to properly investigate this issue. We will also carry out diplomatic work. No doubt, without the backing of a military move, diplomatic work will be fruitless. Even with the backing of a military move, greater hope is attached to military operations than diplomatic moves.

[Correspondent] In view of the fact that the U.S. presence in the region has turned into a long-term stay, resulting from the U.S. desire to legalize its presence in the Persian Gulf, what will our response be to this aggressive presence?

[Khamene'i] We will certainly not put up with a long-term U.S. presence in the region. If the United States policy is to increase its presence in the Persian Gulf gradually and with the long-term objectives in order to prepare the ground for a long stay, this act certainly runs contrary to the long-term security and tranquillity of the region. We were against the idea of the Americans' arriving in the Persian Gulf . We are strongly against its long-term presence and we will confront it. If we feel that the United States is gradually digging in its heels in the Persian Gulf by using a floating base and and other places, then we will certainly respond. We will not permit such a thing to take place.

In conclusion, I would like to thank our dear people once again and would like to ask them to realize the importance of registration week. Everyone who is capable of carrying out the 10-point message of the Supreme War Support Council should present himself to these centers and register. God willing, we will have another dispatch early in the month of Dey [beginning 22 December 87], which is named the dispatch of [name indistinct], may God's peace be upon him. The dispatch of some people might be even later. In any case, I stress and recommend to the people that everyone should participate in this (?registration). [end recording]

Musavi Interviewed Following Cabinet Meeting

LD061426 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Interview with Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi by an unidentified correspondent at the conclusion of the 6 December Cabinet session; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr Musavi, on the eve of the East-West summit, one of the issues which will be discussed regarding the Islamic Republic of Iran will be the impositon of sanctions, including a ban on the sale of weapons to the Islamic Republic of Iran. Considering that one of the issues discussed at today's session was the budget bill for the year 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989], will you please tell us how much money has been allocated to the research and manufacture new weapons in next year's budget?

[Musavi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Before answering your question, we note that according to news reports, discussions are continuing. Whether or not they come to an agreement on this issue is another matter. Our nation will pass judgment on any country that adopts a hostile stand toward us. We adjust our approach to the outside world on the basis of their behavior toward us, within the framework of our own standards. The point which remains important to us and which reassures us is that we do not believe that any kind of calculation can weaken the strong determination of our people to crush Saddam's regime. This will remain to the end. Compared with 1980, when the war was imposed on us, our capabilities have improved. Everyone knows that our so-called ability to manufacture weapons, machinery, and ammunition—even quite modern arms—has improved. It is, in fact, ironical that at one point the United States was claiming that the Hawk was very complicated as were its spare parts, and even during the McFarlane affair the point was repeatedly raised that an arms embargo would be aimed at preventing us from receiving these complicated things.

Within a few months we will be able to export the most sensitive (?bulb) for U.S. Hawk missiles, provided that no import restrictions are imposed on us by the United States. We are making speedy progress.

In connection with modern weapons like missiles and airplanes, we are in a desirable position. Of course, our facilities do not allow us to manufacture an ultramodern plane. However, we have made a start and we will

continue. The same applies to the production of ammunition which is needed at the war fronts. With regard to our missile, the news has already been made public and films in this connection have been shown at the Cabinet session. This missile has been successfully tested. We have the technology to build these missiles. Our experts have acquired this technology; it has not been imported or assembled. Therefore, the restrictions we have had up to now have proved useful. If we did not have these restrictions, if we had unlimited money in our pockets, lots of dollars at our disposal, we might not have been inclined to build our own TOW missiles or to design our own medium-range missiles or to make such progress in manufacturing our own planes.

There are many other secrets in which we have made progress which I will not go into. However, all these advances have forced us to use our God-given talents. Thank God, we have ample human and natural resources. All this has helped us to remain powerful and strong in the world and to announce that no kind of restriction imposed on us will be effective, no kind of economic sanction will have any effect on the outcome of the war which has already been determined by our nation, i.e. to crush the aggressor. We will stand firm on this issue.

Of course, this point is only mentioned indirectly in the budget, within the general budget allocated for defense and within the provisions made for foreign exchange expenditures in the form of Note 29 in the current year's budget. All these will facilitate the operation of our industrial organs to go forward with strength. You can see the government is continually praising research work to encourage it further. Newspapers and mass media should accept a large share in this connection. If we succeed in strengthening and enriching this climate in our society, I am certain that we will not become bogged down in any situation.

[Correspondent] In the past few days we have witnessed developments in relations between Iran and France. These developments have not been welcomed by some countries, including Britain and the United States. Would you please tell us how these relations will develop in view of the recent changes?

[Musavi] The progress made in this connection up to now has been very good and the future will depend on France's behavior. We hope that this tendency will continue and expand. We would like the problems to be solved. Our policy generally is that, apart from a few countries to which we have repeatedly referred, we would like to approach other countries on the same level and establish brotherly relations. No country should imagine that by being a superpower, large, European or Ame...[word left incomplete] or a European country, it can maintain the upper hand in its dealings with us. In connection with France, as compared with the past, relations have improved. We hope that this trend continues.

Khomeyni Receives Minister, Farmers 7 Dec

LD071207 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Excerpts] A group of exemplary farmers and farming advisers together with Agriculture Minister Zali, some ministry officials, a group of employees, and workers of Pasargad Company which belongs to the Shahid Foundation, accompanied by the company's managing director, met with Imam Khomeyni at Hoseyniyeh Jamaran today. [passage omitted]

The agriculture minister expressed the hope that in view of the importance of agriculture in future plans for the country and the ever-increasing efforts of the farmers, our farming products will continue to improve every year.

One of the exemplary farmers then delivered a speech . [passage omitted]

At the end of the meeting, the imam of the ummah responded to the expressions of the audience's sentiments.

Commentary Warns Kuwait of 'Consequences'

NC061139 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0700 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Unattributed commentary from the "Voice of the Front" feature: "We Will Not Tolerate a U.S. Base on the Kuwaiti Coasts"]

[Text] Kuwait has placed a floating platform at U.S. disposal to be used for naval and air operations in the Persian Gulf. This has been confirmed by a Pentagon spokesman, who added that this was proposed by Washington and accepted by the Shaykhdom of Kuwait.

After this was reported, the Kuwaiti court adopted a contradictory stand. It confirmed the reports, then refuted them, then clarified them. This contradictory stand should not be construed as an indication of a complicated nature in the shaykhdom's policies. It should be seen as a sign of the Al-Sabah dynasty's fear of the results of this decision, and it indicates the extent of Kuwait's fear following the publication of these reports.

The U.S. press had reported before that the Al-Sabah dynasty had requested that a U.S. naval base be built on the Kuwaiti coasts and in the waters of the Kuwaiti continental shelf, but the United States had opposed this plan. Subsequent reports, however, indicated that Washington had not opposed the plan but was studying the proposal to build a floating base.

The recent remarks by the Pentagon spokesman were actually an official confirmation of reports that such a plan did exist. However, apparently Washington is trying to downplay the Al-Sabah dynasty's role in this

affair, making it look as though the proposal was made by the United States in the hope that this would diminish Kuwait's responsibility in this affair to a certain extent.

Whatever the mechanism and from whichever side the proposal may have come, nothing changes the nature and essence of the issue. The Al-Sabah dynasty has, by setting up a naval base, agreed to open its coasts in the Persian Gulf and thus granted the aggressive U.S. forces the opportunity to carry out more easily their mission of exacerbating the tension in the Persian Gulf.

The course of regional developments and the Al-Sabah dynasty's behavior in various adventures show that the Kuwaiti court does not feel the need for security and has little interest in its future. If this were not so, it would be behaving differently and would have chosen another path. Although we have nothing to say to Kuwait and there is no reason for us to continue telling the Al-Sabah dynasty what is right or wrong, we must note the principles of the Islamic Republic's policy in this regard. The Al-Sabah dynasty is directly responsible for all the incidents that occur, in one way or another, in relation to the shaykhdom's decisions, acts, and behavior. It is natural that it bear the consequences. The Al-Sabah dynasty will soon have to bear the consequences of all problems arising from the despicable behavior of the Kuwaiti shaykh. The Al-Sabah dynasty's current efforts to clarify or refute reports solve nothing, and the essence of the matter remains. The Kuwaitis also denied the multifaceted exploitation of Bubiyan Island by the Iraqi military, as they denied that the Baghdad regime was using Kuwait's airspace and airports to inflict blows on the oil and port installations of Islamic Iran. However, everything was so clear that Al-Sabah's denials could not change the core of things or conceal Kuwait's direct responsibility.

The Al-Sabah dynasty's agreement to the construction of a floating base in the shaykhdom's waters is not something Islamic Iran can tolerate or simply ignore. The spokesman for the Supreme War Defense Council has declared the Islamic Republic's official stand on this and has clarified that we will never allow the United States to set up a base near our coastal waters.

This is neither a warning nor a threat. It is the reiteration of a definite principle that should be considered. Any base to which the aggressive U.S. forces gain access by exploiting the despicable nature of the Al-Sabah dynasty in the region will be considered a serious threat to the Islamic Republic's interests and regional security and will be destroyed at the proper moment and the first opportunity. U.S. installations in the region are within the range of the army of Islam more than ever before. It is known and there is no need to repeat that the forces of Islam will consider as war booty whatever they take from the United States and Iraq in the Persian Gulf. We are stressing this because everyone should know that whatever Islamic Iran gains from the clutches of the aggressive forces will never be returned. Thus, naturally any legal measures to prove Kuwait's ownership of anything confiscated by the forces of Islam from the hands of the aggressive American and Iraqi forces will be in vain.

Commentary on Change in U.S. Policy in Gulf

LD061545 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1103 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Station commentary: "The Claims of U.S. Political and Military Officials With Regard to the U.S. Presence in the Persian Gulf"]

[Text] According to the press, the U.S. Defense Department has recently published the remarks made by Richard Armitage, U.S. assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs, at the meeting of the Committee for International Relations in the FRG. It is notable that the assistant secretary of defense's remarks were published, and by the Defense Department at that, while Armitage was stressing that the United States is ready to reduce the size of its military forces stationed in the Persian Gulf, provided that Iran reduces its threats.

Moreover, Frank Carlucci, the new U.S. War minister [title as heard], said during the course of the NATO defense ministers' meeting in Brussels last week, that the possibilities for reducing the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf is being reviewed. Carlucci was also quoted as saying that he, himself, had held talks with Margaret Thatcher concerning cooperation between U.S. and British forces in the Gulf.

These remarks are being made within the context of recent signs of changes in the Reagan administration's militaristic policies. The clearest manifestation of this is the unexpected resignation of Caspar Weinberger—Reagan's hardline war minister—which was given some trumped up explanation, and his replacement by Frank Carlucci, a reputed moderate and middle-of-the-road man in the White House.

The expanding presence of the U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf—not forgetting that the level stands at approximately 40 warships and more than 20,000 military personnel—as well as the dangers involved, have clearly confronted the Reagan administration with a great deal of pressure from within that country's ruling clique.

The expanding dimensions of the disgrace of the defeated McFarlane trip, the devastating stock market crash, and the need to prepare for a Republican victory in the upcoming presidential elections have combined to push the Reagan administration toward bringing about some changes in its militaristic policies. This runs counter to its previous methods. In addition, issues relating to the Reagan-Gorbachev summit and the close relationship between the outcome of the summit and the political future ofr Reagan and the Republican faction, have also contributed to the appearance of these changes. These issues will continue to have an affect, as the

manner of settling regional differences will be one of the key issues discussed between the superpowers in their efforts to reach agreements in most other matters.

Also, the presence of U.S. and European forces in the Persian Gulf, as well as the U.S. opposition to the Soviet proposal to form an international force in the Gulf, are among the most important regional disagreements between Moscow and Washington. Therefore, the latest remarks by the U.S. assistant secretary of defense with regard to the U.S. announcement on reducing its forces in the Gulf, and the publication of these remarks by the U.S. Defense Department actually amount to a defeat. In addition, Reagan's administration, by yielding to this undeniable defeat, is attempting—while creating the necessary conditions for reducing pressure within the administration—to gain more concessions from the Soviets in Reagan's talks with Gorbachev.

In any case, the Islamic Republic of Iran, in following its usual policy, once again explicitly declares that the sheer presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf as well as the aggressive interference by these forces, can in no way be tolerated by Muslim nations. It is vital that these forces leave the region and head back to their own countries without conditions or reservations.

Majlis Speaker Meets Friday Prayer Leaders

LD050020 Tehran IRNA in English 1741 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] Kerman, Dec. 4, IRNA—Majlis speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here Thursday that the U.S. is present in the Persian Gulf in a vain bid to save Saddam (Husayn) from his fall. But, he added, the U.S. is abased by Iranian people who are present in the war fronts actively.

Speaking in a joint session comprised of Friday prayer leaders, theologians and executive directors of Kerman Province, the speaker stressed the Islamic republic depends on Allah of which global powers are deprived. Popular resistance has surprised the enemies, he added.

Elsewhere in his speech, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani addressed himself to the theologians and said theologians are proclaimers of unity. There is no goal more important than people's solidarity against foes of Islam, he emphasised.

Hoj. Hashemi-Rafsanjani appreciated sacrifice of Thar-Allah division of Kerman Province, saying that the division is one of the best popular ones in the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC).

Also speaking at the session was Imam Khomeyni's representative and Friday prayer leader of the city of Kerman Hojjat ol-Eslam Yahya Ja'fari who gave a lecture on the role of theologians play in advancing the Islamic Revolution's Objectives.

Hoj. Hashemi-Rafsanjani accompanied by the Imam's representative in Supreme Defence Council, Brigadier 'Ali Seyyed Shirazi, left here for the capital Friday morning.

USSR Issues Warning Over Launching Offensive

JN050910 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0845 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 5 Dec (WAKH)—Today's *Al-Ittihad* says that Moscow recently informed Tehran of the dangers of Iranian forces launching a large-scale offensive on the Iraqi front. The Soviet authorities affirmed to Iranian officials that an Iranian offensive at this time will have negative international repercussions against Iran.

Al-Ittihad says in a dispatch by its correspondent in New York that Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Javad Larijani informed the Soviet ambassador, who is also the president of the Security Council, that Tehran intends to continue its contacts with the UN secretary general after he holds contacts with his government in Tehran with regard to proposals which Perez de Cuellar asked the Iranian officials to respond to.

Al-Ittihad cited a Soviet official at the United Nations as saying that Larijani explained to the Soviet ambassador during a meeting on 3 December that Perez de Cuellar gave him more detailed and specific proposals on implementing Security Council Resolution No 598 calling for an end to the war.

Paper on USSR Planes, PRC Missiles

JN050709 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0630 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 5 Dec (WAM)—*Al-Ittihad* says that Iran recently received Soviet-made fighter planes from one of the Eastern bloc countries. *Al-Ittihad* cited informed diplomatic sources as saying that the planes were delivered to Tehran in a number of consignments.

Al-Ittihad also disclosed that Iran recently received 100 anti-ship missiles, model C-801 [as received], from the PRC. The newspaper quoted military sources as saying that this missile is the most modern Chinese anti-ship missile and resembles to a large extent the French missile Exocet in terms of shape and size.

Soviet Ambassador Meets With Majlis Official

LD061136 Tehran IRNA in English 1055 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 6, IRNA—Soviet ambassador to Tehran Vladimir Gudev met and talked with head of the Majlis (Parliament) Foreign Policy Committee Hojjat ol-Eslam Marvi here Sunday morning.

Bilateral relations were discussed in the meeting, said the Majlis public relations office.

Larijani Interviewed on Talks at United Nations

LD051228 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that Mohammad Javad Larijani, deputy foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, gave a telephone interview from UN headquarters to a correspondent of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran after his 2-day talks with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. He said: During my visit to the United Nations at the invitation of the secretary general and my 2-day talks with him, we clearly stated and stressed the Islamic Republic of Iran's position with regard to the secretary general's plan for the implementation of Resolution 598. Since that resolution was first adopted, we have clearly stated and stressed that we have held a principled position right from the start; namely ,that the key to resolving the issue of the war lies in the Security Council's declaring Iraq as the aggressor. This will be a first step toward crushing the aggressor and putting him on trial.

Mr Larijani stressed: The first clause of the Security Council's Constitution says that the council's second obligation is to crush the aggressor. The council is obligated to crush the aggressor. This is precisely our primary position, which we have pursued right from the outset. The new aspect in Resolution 598 is that Article 6 provides for the formation of a commission to identify the aggressor and the side that started the war; this is a positive step. The other thing is that the UN secretary general has drawn up a plan to implement the resolution, which itself also envisages such a commission. This, too, is a positive step.

The reason why we have not openly rejected Resolution 598 is this very positive aspect. We are considering the secretary general's plan because of our own principled position with regard to that plan. At the United Nations we declared that the main point is not the formation of a commission to identify the aggressor, but the identification of the aggressor. The naming of the aggressor is not something that takes much time. Everyone knows who the aggressor is. This is a political move which does not need a great deal of time. This step must be taken and the aggressor must be identified.

Mr Larijani said: The UN secretary general has given an opinion on the implementation of the resolution whereby none of the clauses of the resolution shall have priority over any other. In other words, the secretary general can begin with any of the clauses of the resolution that he chooses. The Security Council has also agreed to this and has granted powers to the United Nations on this issue, noting that as the resolution as a whole is a single entity, the secretary general should move toward its implementation. We agree to this definition of and view on the resolution, but the warmongering Ba'thist Iraqis have officially rejected it. Today it has become clear to the world that Iraq, which formally claimed that it accepted the resolution, is in practice against the viewpoint of the secretary general and the council, and the resolution itself. Iraq wants to use the resolution to rescue itself, but Iran believes that the resolutions of the council should not provide the means for rescuing the aggressor. Rather, they should be used crush the aggressor. It is the duty of the Security Council to do this. Our reasoning may have never before received as much attention as now.

In reply to a question on the Security Council's accepting the viewpoints of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr Larijani said: We still believe that the Security Council is ineffective in implementing its responsibility as outlined in the UN Charter. In any case, we do not want to lose any opportunity in defining our rightful positions, and our words will influence our hearers, however they are expressed.

Speaking on combat readiness inside the country and its influence on the trend of talks at the United Nations, Mr Larijani said: Without a doubt, the greatest political backing of the Islamic Republic of Iran is its strength in defending its principled demands. Military force is the principal backing of Iran's foreign policy towards the achievement of our rights. We should never lose our military preparedness while defending ourselves. The stronger we are, the more successful we shall be in advancing our political objectives.

Remarks at Frankfurt Airport

LD051846 Tehran IRNA in English 1740 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] Frankfurt, Dec. 5, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran is "dismayed and disappointed by the delays in implementation" of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 concerning the Iraq-Imposed war, said foreign ministry director-general for international and economic affairs Mohammad Javad Larijani, here today.

In an interview at Frankfurt airport on his way back from the U.N. where he held four intensive sessions with U.N. Chief Javier Perez de Cuellar, Larijani castigated the Iraqi regime for trying to block the implementation of the Security Council resolution.

Larijani, reiterating that ceasefire is possible only with the identification of the aggressor party responsible for the start of the conflict, deplored that no action has yet been taken.

Asked on the Islamic republic's viewpoints on the U.N. resolution, the Iranian official replied "we have very logical and solid position on this matter."

"Iran has already accepted the implementation of the resolution" and accordingly is in "intensive dialogue and discussion" with the secretary-general to achieve its objective, he elaborated.

However he noted that Iraq, despite its claims of accepting the resolution has in action "categorically rejected the implementation plan of the secretary general, outright."

Larijani continued that certain countries especially the U.S. are obstructing the implementation of the resolution and resorting to a propaganda war against the Islamic Republic.

Iraq and its accomplices are trying to distract attention by raising issues which are not really in substance of the matter, he added.

Questioned on the prospects of the progress of talks with the U.N. chief, Larijani answered that two important facts are worth considering. On one hand what he termed "the successful attempt" of Perez de Cuellar to bring about peace and security, while on the other the Iraqi rejection and "American troublemaking" which he said are hampering the U.N. chief's efforts.

Larijani labelling U.S. interference in the Persian Gulf as blatant blow to the peaceful activities of Perez de Cuellar, in addition to being a threat to regional integrity said, that U.S. involvement may only escalate tension and broaden the conflict.

It is high time the Security Council exerted pressure on Iraq to accept the responsibility of starting its aggression on the Islamic Republic, called [as received] Larijani, adding that Iran hopes for "a very logical, sound and fair analysis of these obstacles" obstructing the U.N. secretary general's plan.

The Islamic Republic of Iran like before will definitely continue to cooperate in achieving peace and a durable security for region, he concluded.

Returns to Tehran 4 Dec

LD052229 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] Mohammad Javad Larijani's talks with Javier Perez de Cuellar—Mr Mohammad Javad Larijani, the Islamic Republic of Iran's deputy foreign minister in international affairs, who arrived in New York with several days of delay following the obstacles created by the American Administration, put an end to his 2-day stay in that city and returned to Tehran yesterday.

The deputy foreign minister of Iran during this time held talks on the executive plan proposed by the UN secretary general for putting an end to Iran-Iraq war at the request of the UN secretary general, and explained the vewpoints of Iran in this relation. Also, toward the end of the third round of his talks with Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar, Mr Larijani participated in a gathering of reporters and answered their questions while laying emphasis on the steadfastness of the Islamic Republic of Iran on its positions. He mentioned the American military presence in the Persian Gulf and the rejection of the UN secretary general's executive plan by Iraq as problems existing on the one way of access to the activities of the UN secretary general. [sentence as heard]

Answering to a question as to whether can diplomatic measures put an end to the war, Mr Larijani expressed hope and considered his presence in New York as an effort made in this connection. Nevertheless, he expressed concern over the slow progress of talks and said: Identification of the aggressor must be made as soon as possible, for identification of the aggressor is clear to all, especially for journalists and reporters.

Iran's deputy foreign minister, in response to another question, described people's recent movement in Iran as a great mobilization, the main objective of which will be to defend the Islamic Republic. He said: Presently, there are two warring factors in the vicinity of Iran, one of which is the American naval vessels in the Persian Gulf and the other is the Iraqi aggressive regime. The mobilized forces are ready for operation and they will enter action at any time it is needed.

In another part of his interview with reporters, Mr. Larijani commented on the policy of continuation of war and the activities of the UN secretary general in this relation and said: Our talks do not concern military or political solutions, but it is related to the possibility of its success. Our stance is quite clear: We were invaded and our resistance led to the liberation of the occupied regions. We seek to defeat the Iraqi aggressive regime which has brought about all these destructions and ruin and this is something quite logical and just.

Analysts of the Iranian issues, in the aftermath of this interview, described the stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran as full and invincible as in the past and considered the repeated emphasis laid by the deputy foreign minister concerning the identification of the aggressor as the first condition set by Iran (?a reason) testifying to this issue. It seems that Iran's strategy revolves on this axis that access to justice in the worst conditions is more desirable than imposed and humiliating peace. This is a logic which is quite appreciated by the freedom fighters and freedom lovers.

Air Force Commander Previews Operations

LD070909 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0740 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Interview with Brigadier General Sattari, Air Force commander, by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] As the Air Force commander, please tell us how ready the Iranian Air Force is as far as its duties are concerned, that is, flight defensive operations?

[Sattari] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. We declared previously to the honorable chairman of the Supreme War Support Council that this year, in the course of our operations, in addition to our routine tasks we will carry out twice the number of operations as in the past few years, by way of extraterritorial sorties and short-range support operations. On the other hand, regarding the transport of our forces from one point to another in the country, evacuation of the wounded, ferrying equipment, and so forth, we will set a new record. Regarding defensive matters, we will take part in various operations to the same degree as we have done in the past 2 years.

Despite all the pressure on this force, due to its superior technology and the economic and military sanctions [as heard], we shall definitely carry out these operations.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

Communique No 3,041

LD051624 Tehran IRNA in English 1543 GMT 5 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 5, IRNA—Iran's Naval gunboats intercepted and searched 18 cargo ships and oil taners in the Strait of Hormuz Friday but allowed them to continue voyage after making certain there was no Iraqi-destined cargo aboard them, said a military communique here Saturday.

In its 3041st communique, the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces added that Iranian Air Force planes effectively carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman Friday.

Exchange of artillery and mortar fire continued throughout the fronts Friday raging somewhat more heavily in Kushk and Anjireh, southern sector, where the Iraqi troops incurred several casualties and parts of their fortifications and three vehicles were set afire.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces responded to Iraqi artillery fire in parts of the southern and Western fronts Friday, killing or wounding several enemy soldiers and destroying 10 gun emplacements and a munitions dump of theirs.

The Iranian artillery fire inflicted heavy losses on Iraqi tanks in Panjwin, Hoseyniyeh and East of Basra, northwestern and southern fronts, Friday.

In east of Basra, Iraqi engineering units suffered heavy losses and their activities were checked by Iranian artillery fire Friday.

Movements of enemy forces and vehicle columns were checked in Anjireh, Nahr 'Anbar and areas overlooking Sar Dasht, southern and northwestern sectors, Friday, concluded the communique.

Communique No 3,042

LD061610 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 6, IRNA—Iran's naval gunboats intercepted and searched nine cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Saturday but allowed them to continue voyage after making certain they were not carrying cargo for Iraq.

Announcing the above, the 3042nd Joint Staff Communique reported here Sunday that exchange of artillery fire continued throughout the battlefields Saturday raging somewhat more heavily in Kushk, southern sector, where 11 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and two enemy vehicles, a machine-gun and several gun emplacements and observation posts were destroyed.

Iraqi troops sustained several casualties and 15 enemy gun emplacements were set abalze in parts of the southern and western fronts in artillery duels with Iranian Gendarmerie forces Saturday.

Iranian artillery fire prevented Iraqi engineering units from setting up mine fields or barbed wire fences in Nahr 'Anbar, Hoseyniyeh and east of Basra, southern sector Saturday, inflicting heavy losses on them.

In Helaleh, western fronts, several Iraqi tanks sustained damage and enemy fire was silenced Saturday when shelled by Iran's Muslim combatants.

Three Iraqi patrol convoys attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in Chegha Hammam and Gerdno [placename as received], Northwestern sector, suffered heavy casualties and were forced to flee by Iranian artillery fire Saturday, concluded the communique.

Communique No 3,043

LD071540 Tehran IRNA in English 1531 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 7, IRNA—Heavy artillery fire of Iran's Muslim combatants pounded positions of Iraqi Ba'thist forces on all fronts of the Iraqi-imposed war particularly in the operational region east of Basra Sunday, inflicting heavy damage on enemy troops and equipment.

The 3043rd Joint Staff Communique reporting the above Monday, said that Muslim combatants also inflicted considerable losses on enemy armored units in Panjwin, Hoseyniyeh and West of Jofeyr.

The engineering activities of Iraqi troops in building supply roads and watch posts in Kani-Sheykh operational region were disrupted by heavy Iranian artillery fire, yesterday.

Movement of motorized convoys and reconaissence flights of the enemy was also checked.

Several Iraqi patrol units in Sar Dasht, Qasr-e Shirin and east of Basra operational regions attempted to infiltrate the defence lines of Muslim combatants Sunday, but were forced to flee sustaining damage.

Gendarmerie forces destroyed at least 15 gun emplacements and watch towers, several anti-aircraft batteries, a truck and an engineering vehicle of enemy troops in southern fronts during the past 24 hours.

Meanwhile Iran's naval forces intercepted and inspected a foreign ship yesterday but allowed it to proceed after determining tehre was no Iraqi-bound cargo aboard.

Pakistan

Protest Lodged With Afghan Envoy Over Firing

BK070746 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] On Saturday [5 December], Afghan Armed Forces fired seven artillery rounds which landed near Ashakhel, north of Landi Kotal in the Khyber Agency, killing four Pakistani women and three children. A strong protest was lodged with the Afghan charge d'affaires in Islamabad yesterday.

Foreign Office Comments on Soviet Protest

BK051417 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 27 Nov 87 p 1

[By Ashraf Hashmi]

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 26: Pakistan has never accused the Soviet Union of being directly involved in the acts of subversion and bomb blasts in the country.

A Foreign Office spokesman said here this morning that the reports gathered by various government agencies provided cumulative evidence to the effect that the bomb blasts in market places and crowded areas in the country were being actively sponsored, patronised and supported by the regime in Kabul which was installed there by the occupation forces." [no opening quotation marks as published] A certain amount of responsibility for the actions of the Kabul regime lies on its benefactors, the spokesman said.

When asked to comment on the reported protest of the Soviet Ambassador in Islamabad against the President's statements accusing the Soviet Union of indulging in subversive activities against this country, the spokesman said that the Soviet Ambassador frequently visits the Foreign Office to exchange views on matters of mutual concern. During one of his visits, he raised questions about the President's statements and suitable replies were given to him. Such statements have to be viewed within the overall perspectives of the policies of the Government of Pakistan which strongly believes in a politically negotiated settlement of the Afghan problem.

Talking about the impending visit of the UN mediator Diego Cordovez to Pakistan during the third week of December, the spokesman said that his visits are always welcomed by the Government which was ready to extend every possible cooperation in pursuance of the UN mediator's noble mission to find an early political settlement of the Afghanistan issue. Mr. Cordovez would also be visiting Kabul. We hoped that his visit would be beneficial and fruitful in relation to the next round of talks at Geneva.

He expressed the hope that the next round talks at Geneva would certainly be the last and would lead to an agreement on the time frame for the withdrawal of Soviet troops. Pakistan's revised proposal for an eight months time limit was adequate and reasonable, the spokesman said.

He said the UN representative would be arriving on his mission after the summit meeting between President Reagan and the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. Both superpowers, he said, were co-guarantors of any final agreement reached on Afghanistan. Therefore their talks on this issue, which is included in the summit agenda, would help the UN mediator in his mission.

When asked to comment on the holding of Loya Jirgah by the Kabul regime, the spokesman described it as an effort of a puppet government to achieve some recognition. The overwhelming majority of the Afghan people who were engaged in a heroic struggle against these henchmen of the occupation forces, would boycott the Jirgah which carried no credibility.

Talking about reports that some Pakistani politicians had been invited to attend the Jirgah, the spokesman said that it was the policy of the Government not to restrict the foreign travels of politicians. As far as the permission to attend this Jirgah was concerned, it was related to the Interior Ministry and not to the Foreign Office, the spokesman added.

Afghan Mujahidin Reject Ziaul Haq's Plan

OW070129 Tokyo KYODO in English 0103 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Islamabad, Dec. 7 KYODO—Pakistan-based Afghan guerrillas have rejected a proposal by President Ziaul Haq that a coalition should be formed of Afghan guerrillas, refugees, and the Soviet-aided communist government in Kabul to facilitate the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

Mawlawi Yunis Khalis, the chairman of the Islamic alliance of Afghan mujahidin representing the seven guerrilla groups operating from Pakistan, said in a statement Sunday that accepting a coalition with the communists in Afghanistan as proposed by Ziaul Haq would amount to accepting communism and a betrayal of the Afghan "martyrs" and their struggle.

Ziaul Haq had proposed in recent interviews with *The Sunday Times* of London and *The Wall Street Journal* that a solution of the Afghan problem would require an accommodation and that a coalition giving equal representation to the Afghan guerrillas, refugees and communists could facilitate the withdrawal of the Soviet troops.

About President Ronald Reagan's statement that the United States would stop supplying arms to the Afghan guerrillas in the event of a Soviet withdrawal, the Afghan leader said "our jihad (holy war) does not depend on the United States. We cannot stop our struggle until the formation of an Islamic government in Afghanistan."

Meanwhile, reports from Peshawar in northern Pakistan said intense guerrilla activities on the Peshawar-Jalalabad highway on the border with Afghanistan had disrupted traffic between the two countries and no vehicles had been able to cross the border for the past week.

According to these reports, a massive concentration of Soviet and Afghan troops and Afghan mujahidin has taken place in the border areas of Afghanistan and scores of cargo trucks are stranded in Pakistan because of the clashes and tensions in the adjoining areas.

There has been intense shelling of Pakistani territory by Afghan artillery almost every day during the past week, the reports said.

The tension in the border areas had mounted in the wake of an attack on a 15-member delegation of the pro-Kabul Awami National Party while it was traveling from Pakistan to Afghanistan to attend the Loya Jirgah (assembly of tribal elders) held in Kabul on November 29-30.

The delegation is now returning via New Delhi by air because of the threats of Afghan guerrilla attacks on a return journey by road.

Sri Lanka

AFP: Rival Group Says LTTE Kills Members

BK051728 Hong Kong AFP in English 1722 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Madras, India, Dec 5 (AFP)—A Sri Lankan Tamil militant group spokesman here said six of its members and two refugees were killed by the dominant Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in the island nation Saturday. A spokesman for the Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front (ENDLF) said that Arsan (eds: one name), an ENDLF leader, was among the eight dead. He said LTTE guerrillas attacked his organisation's men at Mangulam, in northern Mullaittivu District, leaving six dead. The LTTE killed two people in an attack on a refugee camp run by the ENDLF in Kilinochchi District, he said.

(Sri Lankan military sources in Colombo said the LTTE killed five ENDLF men in the Kilinochchi District early Saturday and two Tamil civilians at a government examination centre in the same area. (Officials in Colombo said the latter attack was an attempt to disrupt national junior school examinations that commenced Saturday.) [passage omitted]

IPKF Raids LTTE Logistics Bases

BK051003 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0951 GMT 5 Dec 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Dec 05 (*Lanka Puwath*)—Five LTTE terrorists have been captured and a large quantity of arms and ammunition seized in Jaffna by the Indian peace keeping force (IPKF) following information given by some of the 110 LTTE terrorists who laid down their arms and surrendered. Official sources told *Lanka Puwath* that the hardcore LTTE cadres who surrendered without offering any resistance had given the IPKF vital information which resulted in a series of raids on LTTE logistics bases in Jaffna and the capture of the five terrorists, and the large weapons haul Tuesday/Wednesday this week. The LTTE was reported to have burnt a bus at Chavakekheri, Jaffna last Wednesday, after ordering those travelling in it to get down.

Meanwhile, LTTE leader Velupillai Prabhakaran was reported wounded and holed out in Jaffna town in the midst of a number of civilians—women and children—forced at gunpoint, to serve as human shields, until his wound gets better and he is able to get on the move again. Intelligence reports reveal the LTTE has run short of arms and ammunition. As a result of mounting pressure from the IPKF, the LTTE was having to change positions daily and its remaining cadres had to be constantly on the move. Indian troops were reported to be hitting 50 to 60 LTTE positions daily. A report from Batticaloa states that the LTTE exploded a landmine yesterday at a police patrol at Vallahipn but the policemen escaped injury.

Sources Confirm LTTE's Prabhakaran Wounded

BK051150 Colombo International Service of English 1045 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] India will not halt its offensive against Sri Lankan Tamil rebels till the dominant separatist group is destroyed as a military force. Diplomatic and military sources said in New Delhi yesterday that Indian infantry division of the island have halved the 4,000-strong LTTE, killed 1,000 rebels and destroyed their main armories since 10 October. Senior military sources said that the IPKF had arrested 382 LTTE members and were engaged in combat with some 1,500 to 2,000 rebels in the north and east. Three hundred nine Indian soldiers have

so far died and 983 wounded; 13 soldiers were missing. Some 125 LTTE rebels were held after the Indian Government last week offered to rehabilitate those who surrendered with arms.

The sources confirmed that the LTTE leader, Prabhakaran, had been wounded in combat and that he was held up in the Jaffna Peninsula. A military source said that he was in a civilian area and has surrounded himself with women and children. He said it was not worth killing Prabhakaran along with the 50 women and children. They were fighting the LTTE not with the aim of killing, but to reduce their military potential.

26 LTTE 'Activists' Arrested in Jaffna

BK061254 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] In Sri Lanka, 26 LTTE activists, including 6 women, were apprehended by the PKF [Peacekeeping Force] in Jaffna Peninsula today. Two vans used by them were seized. Some rifles and ammunition were also captured by the PKF in (Matuvil) area. Meanwhile, normalcy prevailed during the curfew relaxation period in Jaffna town today.

Hameed, Indian Envoy Discuss Situation

BK051303 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1245 GMT 5 Dec 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Dec 05 (*Lanka Puwath*) — The Sri Lankan minister of foreign affairs, AC Shahul Hameed, met the acting Indian high commissioner, Nirupam Sen, defence services adviser of the Indian high Commission, Captain BK Gupta, secretary, Ministry of Defence, general DS Attygalle and senior assistant secretary, Ministry of Rehabilitation, CHMT Chandrasekera, at the Foreign Ministry yesterday to review the situation in the northern and the Eastern Province. The events in Ottamavadi and Valachchenai were also discussed, states a press release issued by the Foreign Ministry in Colombo today.

The acting high commissioner briefed the minister of foreign affairs on the facts and explained the circumstances in which the IPKF [Indian peacekeeping force] lost 9 killed and 10 injured. He pointed out that the LTTE attacked the IPKF with mortar and automatic weapons from entrenched positions in houses in the Ottamavadi village to prevent IPKF reinforcement. The IPKF had to neutralize the fire emanating from the village and in the crossfire 18 houses were damaged 25 persons were killed and 21 injured.

The acting high commissioner stated that there were no incidents of arson, looting or damage to any mosque. And this, he said has also been confirmed by independent observers. Some of the measures discussed included immediate steps to be taken to enable those who are temporarily displaced to return to their homes and to ensure uninterrupted food supplies to the affected areas in the Eastern and Northern Provinces.

The acting high commissioner also informed the minister of foreign affairs that the operational requirements of the situation in the east are under constant review by the GOC [General Officer Commanding] eastern sector, Major General RP Singh, and the the GOC-designate, Major General Jamil Mehmood, who is in the process of taking over charge.